Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-005
Tuesday
8 January 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-005 8 January 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Fahd, Al-Asad, Mubarak To Meet 'Before 15 Jan' *[London KUNA]* 1
More Airlines Suspend Flights to Jordan *[AFP]* 1

Islamic Affairs

People's Islamic Congress Calls Mecca Meeting *[Riyadh TV]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Leadership Meetings Begin in Baghdad *[INA]* 1
'Distortion' of 'Arafat Statement Rejected *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Qaddumi Reviews Efforts To Solve Gulf Crisis *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 8 Jan]* 2
Milhim 'Optimistic' About Baker-'Aziz Talks *[Amman Radio]* 2
Abu-Sharif Urges U.S. Dialogue With PLO *[AL-DUSTUR 8 Jan]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Delegation Senses Iraqi 'Willingness' for Peace *[APS]* 4
Algerian Sources on Iraqi Desire for 'Assurances' *[MENA]* 4
Foreign Ministry Welcomes U.S.-Iraqi Talks *[APS]* 4
Pre-Election Party Maneuvers Noted *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Government Approves Justice, Development Movement *[Algiers Radio]* 5

Egypt

AL-AHRAM Discusses Persian Gulf Situation 5
Views Peace Overtures to Iraq *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Notes Saddam's Bid To Foil Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Baker-'Aziz Meeting 'Last Chance' for Peace *[MENA]* 5
Commentary Discusses Saddam's Rashness *[Cairo Radio]* 6
319 Egyptians Arrive From Somalia Via Jeddah *[MENA]* 7
Mubarak Cited on Domestic Issues, Gulf Crisis *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 5 Jan]* 7

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Water Program, Rebels in South *[National Unity Radio]* 10
Al-Bashir Addresses Khartoum Demonstration *[SUNA]* 10
RCC, Ministerial Council Meet on Gulf Crisis *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
Foreign Minister, RCC Member Meet Iranian Group *[SUNA]* 11
RCC Member Tours Northern Region, Talks of Famine *[SUNA]* 11
Justice Minister Discusses Islamic Law *[SUNA]* 11

'Massive Demonstrations' To Support Islamic Law *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
Government Demanding Money To Return Saudi Pilot *[Voice of Sudan]* 11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Envoy to CSFR Believes War Not Probable *[Prague TV]* 12
Editorial Insists on 'Full Withdrawal' *[AL-ANBA' 6 Jan]* 12
UK Prime Minister Arrives in Al-Ta'if 12
Received by Premier *[SPA]* 12
Meets With Amir *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 12
Major Comments on Talks *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION 7 Jan]* 13
Appreciation Expressed for Nonaligned Movement *[Riyadh TV]* 13

Oman

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Arrives in Muscat 14
On Two-Day Visit *[WAKH]* 14
Talks Held on Gulf *[WAKH]* 14
CSFR Officials Comment *[Prague CTK]* 14
Sultan Meets CSFR, UAE Officials *[Muscat TV]* 15
Oil Drilling Venture Confirmed *[CTK]* 15

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Reviews Gulf Situation *[Riyadh TV]* 15
King Fahd Receives Syrian Foreign Minister *[Riyadh Radio]* 16
UK Prime Minister Major Arrives in Riyadh 16
Welcomed by Crown Prince *[SPA]* 16
Rules Out Extending UN Deadline *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 16
Received by King Fahd *[Riyadh Radio]* 16
Further on SFRY Federal Secretary Visit 16
To Establish Diplomatic Ties *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 16
Meets Finance Minister, Departs *[Tanjug Radio]* 17

United Arab Emirates

Syrian Defense Minister Meets With Counterpart 17
Discusses Gulf Crisis *[WAKH]* 17
Departs Following Talks *[WAKH]* 17
Somalian President's Aides Arrive in Abu Dhabi *[AFP]* 18
Czechoslovakia's Dienstbier Arrives on Visit 18
Makes Statement *[WAKH]* 18
Meets President on Gulf *[Prague CTK]* 19
Abu Dhabi Talks Reviewed *[Prague Radio]* 19
Dienstbier, Delegation Depart *[WAKH]* 20

IRAQ

Jasim Denies Helicopters Crossed to Saudi Arabia *[INA]* 21
Official Interviewed on Gulf Crisis, U.S. Plans *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Ramadan Comments on Dialogue With Baker *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
Paper Calls on Bush To Disavow 'War Mania' *[INA]* 23
Newspaper Denounces Bush 'Propaganda Ploy' *[INA]* 23
Bush Warned of 'Terrible Consequences' of War *[INA]* 24
AL-'IRAQ Encourages Efforts To Prevent Bloodshed *[INA]* 24
Saddam Receives Message From Soviet Leaders *[INA]* 24
Saddam Meets 'Arafat, Affirms Palestine Cause *[INA]* 25

U.S. 'Hypocrisy' on Palestine Question Viewed *[INA]* 25
Army Ready To Deal U.S. 'Severest Punishment' *[INA]* 25
Military Commander Expects 'Immense' U.S. Losses *[INA]* 26
Saddam Stresses 'High' State of Readiness *[INA]* 26
Roads Completed in 'Operation Theaters' *[INA]* 26
Air Force Adapts Hawk Missile Equipment *[INA]* 26
'Izzat Ibrahim, Delegation Leave for Tehran *[INA]* 27
Saudi Call for Islamic Meeting 'Null and Void' *[INA]* 27
'Vital Medical Supplies' Seen in Short Supply *[Amman Radio]* 27
'Ibn Khaldoon' Still Surrounded by U.S. Navy *[INA]* 28
KDP Official on Kurdish Movement, Gulf War *[Vienna PROFIL 7 Jan]* 28

ISRAEL

Four Hamas Activists Deported to Lebanon 8 Jan *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Shamir Says Military Confrontation Drawing Closer *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
Shamir 'Harshly' Criticizes U.S. in Likud Address *[DAVAR 8 Jan]* 30
Shamir Meets British Delegation, Discusses Gulf *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Levi Discusses New Post-Gulf Reality *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Levi on Peace Prospects, Baker-'Aziz Meeting *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Ben-Aharon Discusses U.S. Peace Moves *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Senior Officer Views Civil Defense Preparations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Police Chiefs on War Preparations, Chemical Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Gas Masks To Be Distributed in Rural Areas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
No Issue Date for Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
UN Personnel To Be Evacuated From Middle East *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Saddam Address Directed at European *[MA'ARIV 7 Jan]* 34
Latest Gaza Proposal Called 'Cosmetic' Measure *[AL-QUDS 3 Jan]* 35
Gaza Commander Says Rules for Firing Unchanged *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Moda'i Hospitalized With Pneumonia *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36

JORDAN

Bush Liable for 'Potential Failure' of Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Jan]* 37
Comprehensive Dialogue Required in Geneva Talks *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 8 Jan]* 37
UN's de Marco Stresses Need for Peace Conference *[Amman Radio]* 38
Praises King, Departs *[Amman TV]* 38
Jordan Supplying U.S. With Iraqi Intelligence *[MENA]* 38
Evacuee Committee Urges Border With Iraq Closed *[PETRA-JNA]* 38
Airfares To Increase In Light of Gulf Crisis *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Jan]* 39
Aviation Official Denies Airports Closure 10 Jan *[PETRA-JNA]* 39
Analyst Denies Former Minister 'Pro-American' *[JORDAN TIMES 6 Jan]* 39
Fatah's Founding Marked; Armed Struggle Stressed *[AL-RA'Y 4 Jan]* 40
Aqwaf Minister Says No Decision on Pilgrimage *[AL-DUSTUR 6 Jan]* 40

LEBANON

Belgian Hostages Released, May Be in Libya *[RFL]* 41
Bush Message to Prime Minister Seen as Supportive *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Fadlallah Against Request for U.S. Assistance *[Tehran International]* 41
UN's Goulding Arrives, Meets With al-Hirawi *[RFL]* 41
Army Denies Report on Clash With Syrians *[RFL]* 41
Middle East Airlines Suspends Flights to Gulf *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Al-Hirawi, Ministers Hold Meeting 7 Jan *[Beirut Radio]* 41

SYRIA

Talas Inspects Gulf Forces, Discusses 'Crime' *[Damascus TV]* 42
Al-Ahmar Addresses Security Forces on Crisis *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Minister Stresses Unity of Iraqi Opposition *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Iraq Told To Heed 'International Consensus' *[Damascus Radio]* 43

Paper Says Iraq Stance Leading to 'Catastrophe' *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Paper Says Iraq Exploiting Palestine Issue *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Arabs Called To Save Region From Destruction *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Papers View Importance of Summit Participation *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Commentary Views 'Last Chance' in Gulf Crisis *[Damascus Radio]* 46

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

USSR Said To Resume Natural Gas Exploitation *[AFP]* 47

Bangladesh

Major Political Alliances Discuss Coalition *[AFP]* 47
Acting President Says No One Can Stop Elections *[Dhaka Radio]* 48
Students Oppose Allowing Ershad Party in Polls *[Dhaka Radio]* 48

India

Troops on Maximum Alert on Kashmir Border *[AFP]* 49
Shekhar Lauds Change in Pakistan's Punjab Stance *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Tamil Nadu Anti-LTTE Efforts Said Insufficient *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Shekhar Favors Negotiated Settlement in Assam *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Shekhar Interviewed on Gulf, USSR Ties *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Chief of Naval Staff Speaks on Gulf Crisis *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Intent To Disrupt Bangladesh Elections Denied *[Delhi Radio]* 50
* Immediate Resolution Urged in Religious Dispute *[ANANDA VIKATAN 16 Dec]* 50

Iran

Iraq's Ibrahim Arrives for Talks in Tehran *[Tehran Radio]* 50
IRGC Commanders Briefed on Maneuvers *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Plans To Use SAMs *[IRNA]* 51
Commentary Hails Sudanese Decision on Islamic Law *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Hungarian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks *[Budapest MTI]* 52
Meets With Karrubi *[IRNA]* 52
Economic Cooperation Stressed *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran TV]* 53
Meets Velayati *[Tehran TV]* 53
Jeszensky Departs *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Paper on Iran's 'Pivotal' Role in Gulf *[TEHRAN TIMES 25 DEC]* 55
RESALAT on U.S. as Regional Policeman *[29 Dec]* 56
KEYHAN Says War 'Imminent' in Persian Gulf *[29 Dec]* 57

Pakistan

Popular Opposition to U.S on Gulf Issue Increases *[AFP]* 58
Khan on India's Regrets Over Harassment of Envoys *[Islamabad Radio]* 58

Sri Lanka

Plan Prepared To Help Nationals in Gulf *[Colombo International]* 58

Inter-Arab Affairs

Fahd, Al-Asad, Mubarak To Meet 'Before 15 Jan'

LD0701135491 London KUNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Jan (KUNA)—According to press reports published here today, a tripartite summit comprising King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will be held in Riyadh before 15 January to discuss developments in the Gulf crisis in light of next Wednesday's scheduled meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister in Geneva.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD of Abu Dhabi, which carried the report today, quoted Arab diplomatic sources here as saying that Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah might join the summit, which will be significant as to the options of peace or war in the region.

More Airlines Suspend Flights to Jordan

NC0701160391 Paris AFP in English 1248 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, Jan 7 (AFP)—All foreign airlines except Air France have decided to cancel flights to Jordan, industry sources here said Monday as moves to suspend airline travel to the Middle East gathered momentum ahead of the January 15 deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Authoritative sources at Amman international airport said the national carrier Royal Jordanian Airlines would provide flights for passengers wishing to leave the country. Air France, which is to maintain service to Amman, runs two weekly flights from Paris, with the return leg stopping at Damascus. [passage omitted]

(In Sydney, the Australian carrier Qantas said it was rerouting flights by at least 1,400 kilometers (875 miles) from a potential war zone as the risk of war increased in the Gulf).

Lufthansa, the German carrier, is to suspend service to Amman from January 31, while Cyprus Airways and Cathay Pacific are to fly to the Jordanian capital for the last time Thursday, airlines sources said here.

The Dutch airline KLM's last flight to the Jordanian capital was on Saturday. Swissair, Alitalia and Olympic, respectively Swiss, Italian and Greek airlines have not been flying to Amman since December, while British Airways stopped service to Amman last March. [passage omitted]

In Warsaw, the Polish carrier Lot said it was temporarily suspending service to several Middle East countries from Wednesday. Destinations affected were Cairo, Damascus, Tel Aviv, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates.

In other developments, between 100 and 200 Polish medical staff were to fly to Saudi Arabia Wednesday to start work in two Saudi hospitals, the Polish news agency PAP said.

Two Polish hospital ships were also heading for the Gulf and expected to arrive around January 15, PAP said. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

People's Islamic Congress Calls Mecca Meeting

LD0501191691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Given the interests of Muslim scholars and intellectuals in the serious crisis sparked by the Iraqi regime's occupation of Kuwait, its insistence on not leaving that country, and the ensuing serious repercussions and deep rifts in Arab and Islamic ranks, as well as out of concern by Muslim scholars for this serious situation, the chairman and members of the Executive Council of the People's Islamic Congress have decided to call for a meeting in Holy Mecca between 16-18 January. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Leadership Meetings Begin in Baghdad

JN0801122591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—The Palestinian leadership's meetings under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat began in Baghdad today.

In a statement to INA, Palestinian Ambassador in Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad said that during its meetings, the Palestinian leadership discussed the current developments in the Arab region and the means to confront the concentrations of the American-Atlantic-Zionist forces invading the Arab lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] as a prelude to carrying out an aggression against Iraq, the fortress of Arab steadfastness.

He pointed out that the meetings will also discuss the Zionist threats to the Arab nation, the continuing Zionist repression against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories, and means of confronting them.

'Azzam al-Ahmad said that the higher committee of the valiant Palestinian intifadah will hold a meeting this evening under Yasir 'Arafat to discuss means of bolstering the intifadah role and escalating its operations to confront the Zionist occupation gangs' acts of terrorism and repression against Palestine's women and children.

'Distortion' of 'Arafat Statement Rejected

LD0801102191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The PLO official spokesman has made the following statement: THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondent in Baghdad, Robert Taylor, conducted an interview with brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, last Wednesday.

Having reviewed the article published by the paper in its issue of Thursday 3 January 1991, it appears that the correspondent distorted what brother president Abu 'Ammar said on his principled and firm stances with regard to a comprehensive solution to the issues of the region—including his emphasis on a resolute commitment to the initiative by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn of 12 August 1990, contrary to what the correspondent stated, and his commitment to a full linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Middle East issue, and rejection of false U.S. promises.

This deliberate distortion of the statements by the brother president Abu 'Ammar, (?is another) U.S.-Zionist attempt to undermine and deform Arab steadfastness.

While the PLO would like to stress that what was written by THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondent is untrue, both on the whole and in detail, it would also like to emphasize that this distortion and deformation will not affect at all the firm solidarity of the Arab forces of confrontation, which are against the presence of foreign forces on Arab soil.

Qaddumi Reviews Efforts To Solve Gulf Crisis

JN0801120791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jan 91 pp 1, 15

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO's Political Department, has affirmed that the organization supports holding the Iraqi-U.S. meeting set for tomorrow, Wednesday, between Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Qaddumi said that the PLO supports serious dialogue and not merely meetings between the United States and the brothers in Iraq to reach a peaceful solution that would rule out military confrontation and the destructive results of war.

Mr. Qaddumi affirmed in an exclusive interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B the need to be alert to detail. This meeting should not involve any preconditions set by the United States on the Iraqi side. It should stem from understanding and dialogue based on clear grounds and which serves the interests of all.

On Palestinian efforts made by the PLO, the head of the PLO's Political Department said the PLO, along with the Arab brothers, has, from the beginning of the crisis, exerted tremendous efforts to avert war in the region. Unfortunately, other external and internal forces are hampering such efforts.

Mr. Qaddumi said the PLO was very honest in the proposals it presented. State of Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat has made efforts and presented proposals to solve the crisis within the Arab fold and framework of noble efforts. He continued these efforts all along but there were some sides that hindered them. The solution should be an Arab solution within the framework of Arab agreement under the international umbrella.

Mr. Qaddumi added that efforts will continue until this cloud which has covered the sky of our Arab homeland is dissipated and matters return to normal.

Replying to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B regarding President Daniel Ortega's initiative and efforts to link all issues in the region, particularly the Palestine question, the Political Department head said that the details of these problems should be discussed at the negotiating table through dialogue between our Iraqi brothers and the United States, as well as the other concerned parties including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Gulf crisis is linked in essence, roots, and origin to the Palestine question.

Faruq Qaddumi said that the Arab summit in Iraq warned of these problems. This summit was held to confront the threats against Iraq and the dangers posed by the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine. All Arab leaders approved these resolutions and all Arabs should have adhered to them, but some did not.

Milhim 'Optimistic' About Baker-'Aziz Talks

JN0701194291 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim says he is optimistic over the Baker-'Aziz meeting in Geneva on January the ninth.

In an interview with our reporter 'Ali Hamati, Milhim said he believes a linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem is a sure way to resolve conflicts in the region.

[Begin recording] [Hamati] Mr. Muhammad Milhim, you are the head of the Department of Occupied Homeland in the Palestinian Liberation Organization, I guess. We welcome you in Jordan of course, and I have also learned that you are an ex-mayor of Halhul that has been deported some eleven years ago. Can you tell us please what are you doing in Amman right now?

[Milhim] Well, actually I am living in Amman. I have been living in Amman ever since I was deported. And, my office is in Amman, and the Department of Occupied

Homeland has always been here in Amman. So, that's ... [changes thought] I am not actually visiting. I am staying here, and I feel that I am more or less at home.

[Hamati] Mr. Milhim, how do you feel about the resolution that has been issued by the United Nations recently concerning our Palestinian families and children in the West Bank?

[Milhim] Well, this resolution indicates that the United Nations has been ever since the Palestine issue has started giving us and a sea ... [changes thought] so many resolutions in favor of our rights. And, I would like to indicate that for me, personally, there have been two United Nations Security Council resolutions in favor of my return, unanimously taken, but I have been unable to return for the last eleven years. Now, the problem at present is not whether we have a resolution; whether there is no veto for the resolution; whether it passes of not; whether it's unanimous or not. The most important thing is that to see to it that life is put in the words of these resolutions, that they are implemented, that they are practically implemented so that peace will prevail, and the rights of the Palestinians will be restored.

[Hamati] This is very true, but don't see that there is a real change in the United Nation's approach towards the Palestinian issue?

[Milhim] There is, I don't deny the fact. This has come as a result of the crisis in the Gulf, where the world has started to realize the fact that they have neglected for a long period of time resolutions so far taken which have resulted—the negligence in the implementation of the resolutions has resulted in the crisis in the Gulf, and may result in crisis somewhere else. So, there is an awareness there in the United Nations—the international arena—that resolutions should be implemented, or else the crisis in the Gulf may be repeated here and there in the world, and thus disturb the world peace.

[Hamati] How do you see such implementation of such resolutions?

[Milhim] Well, I feel that resolutions regarding the Palestine problem... [changes thought] I don't doubt that the Europeans, the nonaligned, the Third World, all, are serious to see that these resolutions are implemented. But, there are two blocks; two roadblocks to implementation, which are Israel and the United States. And, look at the Gulf crisis; if the United States is not there supporting, we would not have seen any no seriousness in tackling the problem, the crisis of the Gulf. So, our problem is that the United States deals with double face, double standards with these resolutions. I think that if the United States is serious about peace in the Middle East, you see, they should not stop in the way of this linkage business. The linkage is going to mean peace in the Gulf, is going to mean peace in Palestine; peace in the Golan Heights; peace in everywhere in the Middle East, including Kuwait. So, this makes me doubtful that those who refuse the linkage want peace, either for the Kuwaitis or for the Palestinians. [end recording]

Abu-Sharif Urges U.S. Dialogue With PLO

JN0801101291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Jan 91 p 16

[Text] Amman—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the Palestinian president, has stated that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's call for negotiations with some Arab countries is a maneuver aimed at deceiving world public opinion and depicting Israel as favoring peace although it is actually totally rejecting it.

Commenting on Shamir's statement to a French radio station the day before yesterday, Abu-Sharif said peace in the region can only be established on the clear basis of ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory so that the Palestinian people can exercise their legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state.

The Palestinian official added: What Shamir said is at the same time an attempt to avoid the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, which was adopted 23 years ago and called for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967. He said: The UN resolutions should be dealt with according to one standard and not two.

He said that by talking about direct negotiations with the Arab countries, Israel wants to appear before the world public opinion as an advocate of peace although it is still occupying the Palestinian territories and practicing state terrorism against the Palestinian inhabitants.

Within this context, he emphasized that since the beginning of the intifadah in December 1987, over 1,200 Palestinians were martyred and about 100,000 were wounded by the Israeli Army. This, he said, makes it incumbent on the international community to adopt immediate punitive measures against Israel, which is occupying the Palestinian territory, continuously violating Palestinian human rights, and committing mass crimes against them everyday.

Abu-Sharif called on the U.S. Administration to open a serious dialogue with the PLO on the ways and means to implement Resolution 242 and grant the Palestinian people their full political rights, headed by their right to self-determination. He said: Opening such a dialogue will be considered a serious sign by the U.S. Administration, which has thus far been using double standards in dealing with the international resolutions on the Gulf and the Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question.

Algeria

Delegation Senses Iraqi 'Willingness' for Peace

LD0801091791 Algiers APS in Arabic 0840 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The Iraqi leaders have a sincere willingness for peace. This is the impression gathered by a delegation from the Committee for Solidarity With the Iraqi People that visited Baghdad recently at the invitation of the Iraqi Government, headed by president of the committee Mr. Bachir Boumehdi.

According to a press release received by APS, the delegation was convinced "of the willingness of the Iraqi leaders for peace and of their rejection of the conditions imposed by United States of America."

At the same time, the press release emphasizes that the Iraqi people are determined to "defend their sovereignty and that establishing peace cannot be achieved at the expense of Arab peoples, or of the Palestinian people in particular."

On the other hand, the committee for solidarity with the Iraqi people believes that "it reflects the view of the Algerian people in expressing its absolute solidarity with the Iraqi people in their confrontation against the Zionist-imperialist aggression.

In conclusion, the press release states that the "Iraqi leaders greatly appreciate the mass demonstration staged on Algerian national soil."

Algerian Sources on Iraqi Desire for 'Assurances'

NC0501084291 Cairo MENA in English 0702 GMT 5 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jan. 5 (MENA)—[passage omitted] Information published in Washington indicated that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, before he agrees to withdraw his troops from Kuwait, wanted assurances that Iraq would not be attacked later by the United States forces or Israel, reported "AKHBAR-Al-YAWM" in its top billing and leading front-page story. The newspaper quoted a dispatch from Algiers reporting that the Iraqi president intimated, during his talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid last month, that he wanted to obtain these assurances. The paper quoted highly-placed Algerian sources as saying that the Iraqi position amounted to an indirect offer to withdraw from Kuwait, which constituted a major shift in the position of the Iraqi president who had insisted that Kuwait would remain an integral part of Iraq.

The Algerian sources said the Iraqi president realised very well that he would suffer defeat if war broke out after the expiry of the 15 January deadline set by UN Security Council resolution for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The newspaper quotes western diplomatic sources in the Algerian capital as saying that Algerian officials noticed during the talks President Bendjedid held in Baghdad, that a major change had occurred in Saddam Husayn's thinking and that the Iraqi president has shifted from his devious arrogant and unrealistic position which prevailed in relation to Kuwait. The Algerian officials noticed that senior Iraqi officials had stopped declaring that Kuwait belonged to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Welcomes U.S.-Iraqi Talks

LD0601104991 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 6 Jan (APS)—"It is with satisfaction and hope that Algeria has welcomed the announcement of a meeting between foreign ministers of Iraq and the USA on January 9", a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry indicated in a statement issued Saturday.

"Algeria which has not stopped, since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, to call for dialogue and reason, the only ones likely to lead to a peaceful and definite settlement of the crisis, hopes that this meeting will constitute the beginning of a responsible and sincere dialogue, and will open the way to a peaceful solution of the crisis, preserving thus the area and the world the immeasurable sufferings and damages which the starting of a war in the Gulf would generate," the statement added.

"In this spirit, the statement underlined, Algeria expresses satisfaction about the holding of a meeting of the EEC devoted to the Gulf and the initiative of Germany and about the forthcoming meeting between the EEC and Iraq and, and calls on all the concerned sides to show readiness and opening and seek together means likely to prevent war and lead to a peaceful settlement of the conflict."

Pre-Election Party Maneuvers Noted

LD0601130391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The paper EL WATAN reported today that the chairman of the Nahda Movement, Mr. Jaballah, has accepted the preconditions set by the Islamic Front for Salvation [FIS] with regard to the unified list which should be submitted within the framework of the forthcoming legislative elections. The unified list will be presented under the banner of the FIS and not in the form of an alliance, grouping, or coalition, as was previously proposed by Cheikh Nahnah, chairman of the HAMAS movement, [Movement of the Islamic Society] and Mr. Jaballah.

EL WATAN disclosed on the other hand that an alliance between three parties will soon be formed in anticipation of the legislative elections. These parties are the Socialist Forces Front, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, and the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development. EL WATAN added that Mr. Kasadi Merbah

[former prime minister] was behind this attempt aimed at setting up a large political grouping able to wage the next electoral battle.

Government Approves Justice, Development Movement

LD0601004391 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The MAJD, Algerian Movement for Justice and Development, officially obtained the approval of the Interior Ministry today, Saturday. Its secretary general is Mr. Khalaf Abdallah, known under the name of Kasdi Merbah. The MAJD registered office is situated in Bouzereah [suburbs of Algeria].

Egypt

AL-AHRAM Discusses Persian Gulf Situation

Views Peace Overtures to Iraq

NC0701161591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 6 Jan 91

[From the press reivew]

[Text] In its editorial, AL-AHRAM stated that the whole world will wash its hands of Saddam Husayn and his actions and turn against him if he does not respond somehow to the current appeals, attempts, and endeavors to persuade him to give more importance to peace than to his inclination toward war and his boasts about might and force. The paper says that this time Europe and the United States are taking part separately in this peace campaign.

All signs indicate that the talks are merely aimed at assessing positions and demonstrating the horrible effects of war, should it break out, and the good results from any step toward reconciliation. However, it is anticipated in this case that Saddam would also take a stand. The process would thus end at this stage of sounding out positions with each party informing the other of his position.

Notes Saddam's Bid To Foil Talks

NC0701185591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 7 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM notes Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's deliberate attempt to block the last chance for a peaceful solution only three days before the U.S.-Iraq talks. He declared that the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq is final and that he expects a long war in the region. He repeated his claim that Kuwait is Iraq's 19th governorate now and in the future. He called on the Iraqi people to offer major sacrifices in the battle that he said will be the mother of all battles. He did not refer once to the United Nations' 15 January withdrawal deadline nor to the Geneva talks between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister scheduled for Wednesday [9 January].

Baker-'Aziz Meeting 'Last Chance' for Peace

NC0801092891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR affirm that the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva on Wednesday is the last chance to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM says that after the Baker-'Aziz meeting, it will become clear whether events are moving toward peace or toward war. The paper notes that all signs indicate that the U.S.-Iraqi meeting will be restricted to an exposition of the two sides' views. Baker will inform 'Aziz of the danger war poses to Iraq if it does not withdraw and 'Aziz will learn from Baker how far the United States is willing to work for peace by agreeing to discuss other chronic issues along with the Gulf issue.

The paper adds that if these positions prevail in the meeting, then it is not expected to produce any results and consequently there is no need to hold it in the first place because these stances are known. They have been affirmed a hundred times and there is no need to reaffirm them yet again, because each party knows the other's stands.

The paper says that it is likely that the issue of guarantees will be raised at the meeting because Saddam shakes at the possibility that he might be attacked while he is withdrawing or several months or years later. The United States might provide some guarantees which will last until the withdrawal ends if he is earnest about carrying it out. It cannot, however, give him a carte blanche of permanent guarantee because it does not trust his behavior either during or after the withdrawal, just as it does not trust his behavior before the withdrawal.

The paper notes that Saddam Husayn might try to play the European card in order to obtain further guarantees from Europe which might exert pressure on the United States and at the same time seek to expedite international talks on the other issues raised by Saddam as long as he has agreed to withdraw and has actually began withdrawing.

AL-AHRAM says that the danger remains that during these talks the West will realize that Saddam is merely seeking to drive a wedge among the members of the front aligned against him so that he might at least escape having to meet the deadline and force the world to start dealing with him from square one all over again while he affirms his willingness to withdraw if he obtains sufficient guarantees. [passage omitted]

In conclusion the paper says that hope is pinned on the possibility that the Geneva meeting may mark the beginning of an essential change in Iraq's behavior. Such a

development will make the world breathe a sigh of relief and drive away the specter of war that hovers over the region and the world.

Under the headline "There Is No Room for Any Appeasement," AL-AKHBAR says in its editorial that the international community has shown more than enough patience toward Iraq at the expense of numerous interests of other nations which were in no way to blame for what happened. It notes how the criminal occupation of Kuwait imposed new worries and intolerable burdens on almost all Third World countries.

The paper adds that it is strange that after six months of appeasement of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn announces that he is staying in Kuwait and no one can drive him out. It notes that this comes two days before the meeting between Baker and Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva for a final dialogue prior to the expiration of the deadline set by the UN Security Council authorizing the use of force against Iraq. [passage omitted]

In conclusion the paper says that such a stance can only be a sign of sickness or insanity in a leader who seeks his people's and homeland's destruction. It says the only way the deceived Iraqi people can be saved from the impending catastrophe is for the people themselves to undertake to deal with this tyrant before it is too late. Otherwise they will have only themselves to blame.

Commentary Discusses Saddam's Rashness

NC0701181391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Arab Nation Is Approaching the Brink of Danger"]

[Text] In his speech marking Iraq's Army Day yesterday, Saddam Husayn reiterated what he has been saying for the past five months: that Kuwait is part of Iraq, that the branch returned to the origin, that the decision to annex Kuwait to Iraq is irreversible, and that the upcoming battle will be long and will be the mother of battles. As a matter of fact, no political observer expected Saddam to say anything else. The man's mind stopped thinking on 2 August. He is still living with illusions larger than his mental capabilities and is defying the rest of the world that reject aggression, annexation, and violation of legitimacy.

Since 2 August Saddam has tried to portray himself as a genius; as a rational, capable, and inspired man; and as the only faithful man to the values of Arabism and Islam. We would not object to these tributes he gives himself. Yet we want to quietly discuss these claims before the catastrophe: Is it Arabism's traits, Islam's traditions, or their values—that Saddam advocates and of which he alleges to be their custodian—to expose the Iraqi people and the Arab nation to the horrors of an unequal battle?

Saddam imagines that when he orders the mobilization of several military divisions within days he is superior to all military commanders, both past and present, and that he works miracles that no one ever heard of before. However, the reality that Saddam does not know—he imagines he frightens the world—is that the mobilization of just one military division requires technical, organizational, and tactical potential as well as supplies, weapons, and training that exceed Iraq's capabilities. It is not a question of massing some 40,000, 100,000, or even 250,000 men lined up side by side, as happens in the party celebrations that Saddam's men are good at. The question is much more dangerous. Saddam, the veteran leader, should have realized that massing these inexperienced troops in modern warfare will expose them to death if waves of aircraft take off and artillery shells and rockets fall on them.

Saddam's problem, and ours, too, is that he does not know the meaning of a modern war, a war which includes space weapons, electronic equipment, and stealth aircraft. Saddam imagines that the upcoming war would be the same as his battle with Iran, when fighting occurred between the ayatollah's boys infused with religious enthusiasm and Saddam's men, who were not at home with modern warfare. Thus, the upcoming war will be devastating and crushing and will turn people into ashes, the buildings into ruins, and Iraqi civilization into memorabilia in books.

Those surrounding Saddam must tell him that the world insists on the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait or the destruction of Iraq, that the matter is serious and not in jest, and that the slogan of the major battle and the uproar of the Iraqi information media might have influenced the war with Iran. However, a war with a multinational force that possesses equipment that Saddam does not even think about is completely different. Moreover, an important issue that Saddam must seriously consider is that the problems of war cannot be judged by the number of arms the fighting army has, but by its ability to continuously replace weapons during the battle. We do not believe that Saddam can allege that he has a military industry capable of financing all requirements of war and in quantities sufficent to enable the one-half-million-strong Iraqi Army to wage an equal battle, the mother of battles, as Saddam claims. Additionally, Saddam lacks any international or Arab support that would enable him to expand his strategic depth when the major battle, as he calls it, erupts, because the whole world is against his aggression and his occupation of Kuwait. We have never heard of any country waging war while besieged and while its leader is crying night and day about the shortage of children's milk and the scarcity of medicines. Thus, Saddam's defiance of logic is by all standards a deliberate attempt to start a fire in Iraq and the Arab world and to turn the region into an arena of devastation in which dismembered bodies will mix with the rubble of buildings. The country will regress by several centuries. A last word to Saddam: Who said that aggression would turn you into a leader and that sacrificing people would install you as leader of the Arab nation? Who said that driving your soldiers into an unequal battle would make you Saladin, and that stealing Muslim's funds would rank you

with Abu-Dharr al-Ghaffari [an early Islam benefactor who donated his wealth and merchandise to the poor during a severe famine]?

319 Egyptians Arrive From Somalia Via Jeddah

NC0701073891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—A private Saudi passenger plane arrived in Cairo airport from Jeddah early this morning with 319 Egyptian passengers transported from Somalia yesterday in the wake of recent disturbances in Mogadishu.

'Abd-al-Hamid Rashid, head of the al-Azhar mission to Somalia, gave an account of events as he witnessed them. He said events started with sporadic gunfire on 30 December. We later learned that the government was facing strong opposition and that a coup attempt was in the making. Opposition members took to the streets, seizing valuables from pedestrians and killing anyone who refused to surrender his possessions. He added: Explosions echoed all over the capital, and thousands of decomposed bodies were left in the streets, threatening a health crisis.

The head of al-Azhar mission added that Egyptians were in grave danger because of a report published by an Egyptian paper saying the Somali defense minister would soon visit Egypt.

An Egypt Air flight is expected to leave Cairo airport today for the Somali capital to transport Egyptians stranded there.

Mubarak Cited on Domestic Issues, Gulf Crisis

JN0601202791 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Jan pp 3, 5

[By Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] The surprise awaiting us during our twenty-hour trip to Libya the day before yesterday was not so much that "the presidential plane" landed in "Misratah" instead of Tripoli.

Nor was it that we were going for a three-way summit of Presidents Mubarak, al-Asad, and al-Qadhdhafi.

The real surprise was that instead of the three flags we expected to see, there were four.

To begin with, some of us thought the fourth flag must be Palestine's, but we soon found out it was Sudan's—General al-Bashir's.

A few hours back in Cairo, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid had been planning for a three-way summit, as had his Libyan and Syrian counterparts.

As we were standing under the four flags, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid told us he was just as surprised as we were. He did not know whether the flag indicated the presence of the Sudanese leader.

We soon discovered from Libyan officials that the Sudanese president was to join the three leaders later in the day at 1730.

Everybody's attention was focused on the tent to which Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi proceeded after the aircraft landed with the question "does the president know?" on everyone's mind.

The mystery was to be unravelled by Mubarak . . . our flight home.

The colonel [al-Qadhdhafi] started by saying to the president: "Egyptian-Sudanese relations are age-old." "I cannot see these relations soured and do nothing." "I have asked brother al-Bashir to join us."

In the meantime, Mubarak just listened. "What has been done cannot be undone." The Lieutenant General [al-Bashir] is preparing for the outgoing flight from Khartoum.

And Mubarak is all too aware of al-Qadhdhafi's dedication and good faith, even on matters on which they may not see eye to eye. [passage omitted]

Mubarak takes pains to mix with us, the journalists, most of the way back from Misratah to Cairo.

The session with Mubarak during the flight lasts more than two hours until just before the plane lands at Cairo International Airport.

The president is open to discussing everything, ready to accommodate any question. He never complains or objects.

He holds the reins and is in control and has the key to information, explanations, and clarifications.

As ever, he will not be drawn into divulging more than he should.

Neither "tactics" nor "rephrased" questions will work with him.

Before we finish our beating about the bush, Mubarak interrupts saying: "No beating about the bush."

I will not say anything other than what serves a purpose at this moment.

If you will, Your Excellency the President, let us talk about the domestic front—about your withdrawal to Ismailia for a couple of days, which was variously said to be the warmup for a theater of operations spread over "one thousand days" and to draw the map of change you have referred to "as everything is possible."

The president answers: ""The one thousand days' and its plan of action is the responsibility of the legislature, the executive, and planning and other state agencies."

The government is working hard and I am watching its performance, and I would say that the march is on.

The possibilities are there... there is no place for stagnation.

If you ask about the IMF, says the president, it is sending a team to visit us. Only a few points remain to be sorted out. Everything is proceeding according to plan.

We tell his excellency the president people link the post-crisis era with debt-forgiveness and freeing the budget from the burden of debt servicing and how this will reflect on them.

Our discussion touches on the relationship with the Gulf states, stability, joint defense and security, and the relationship between cooperation, ecnomic assistance, and investment.

I have worked hard for eight continuous years to write off the military debts, the president explains.

The "battle" for writing off the debts began in 1982, when former U.S. President Reagan was in office.

They made several proposals and suggestions to lessen or delay the debt burden.

But I was determined, indeed confident—based on accurate assessment and special personal feelings—that we would certainly manage to write off the debts through persuasion and the creation of mutual confidence.

When President Bush assumed office, I continued my efforts of persuasion.

Bush knows very well my strong relations with the U.S. Congressmen—senators and representatives.

He knows their confidence in Egypt.

When Bush and his administration had finally been convinced of the need to write off the debts, the U.S. President contacted me and asked me to contact personally a number of known Congressmen who had a say in the matter. He told me he was sure I was better able than him to convince them.

And I did contact 40 Congressmen.

After that, the Congress dropped its reservations, and approved the administration's bill on writing off the debts.

The size of the written-off debt may not reflect the importance and extent of this achievement. Together with the last interest installment, the figure is $7.1 billion. But the fact is that if the debts had continued, the figure would have grown to about $22 billion by 2010.

What is more, I had to pay about $200 million—precisely $190 million—every month to service the debts. The United States alone would have received 1 billion dollars every year.

These burdens hindered the provision of production supplies for factories, and caused shortages of many commodities.

Now that this debt and the Gulf debts have been written off, we are in better shape; our ability to implement the economic reforms plan is now stronger, and this is the important thing.

—What about Gulf cooperation in the fields of economy and security—Your Excellency already discussed this subject with the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Gulf leaders? And the subject was also brought up at the Doha summit.

The president said: I have not yet received anything on the outcome of the Doha summit and the decisions concerning this matter, nor about the proposed fund.

I believe I will soon receive something about this.

But I would like to stress that the understanding between us and the Gulf states is deep, and that our conviction about economic and security cooperation is no longer a source of suspicion or controversy.

Confidence among states, peoples, and leaders is established and reinforced through policies, joint action, and common confrontation.

We, therefore, have not hesitated in sending our forces to defend Saudi Arabia and support our brothers in the Gulf.

Shall we return to war, peace, and 15 January?

Mubarak says with all frankness:

The world of the 50's and the 60's is completely different from the world of today. Anyone who does not give himself the chance to see the outside world—how it thinks, how it deals with events and facts, and how it develops—cannot push himself into this world, which is strange and new to him, and consider himself a party affecting this world and influenced by it.

Here, the language of dialogue is lost, and we fall into a fatal error: The absence of common ground and the basis of understanding that may lead us to making right decisions and sound opinions.

I am, therefore, eager to state my opinion, to warn and address repeated appeals to the Iraqi president to reconsider his decision and approach and use reason and logic.

In this, I proceed from the responsibility of my Arab conscience, and from my concern about Iraq, its people, and its Army.

Some of the allied friends may have been rather dissatisfied with my latest appeal, having shown solicitude for Iraq and its president.

But there is too much at stake.

But, Your Excellency the president: The Iraqi president has got it all wrong. He incited "the henchmen" to resume their abuses and attacks following a hiatus in Iraqi media attacks on Egypt and you personally.

What motivated him to act the way he did? Was it the appeal itself, or are there circumstances we do not know about?

The president: He has chosen to withhold many things. Similarly, there are things I will not divulge unless he forces me to.

However, I would point out that right from the start concern for [Arab] solidarity, solicitude for Iraq, and the need to avert devastation have been consistently uppermost in my mind. I made a point of listening to and reading every single word and item said or written about the crisis—all the time analyzing and drawing conclusions.

But time is running out and the deadline is approaching, Your Excellency the president, and we are in suspense as to what will happen.

Will it be war?

Will it be peace?

One thing is certain, says the president: Saddam will have to disgorge Kuwait immediately and unconditionally.

Legitimacy—the legitimate Government, that is—will have to be reinstated.

Afterward, everything between Iraq and a free, independent Kuwait will be negotiable.

Even a way out may be found for Saddam and his forces, assuming good faith and subject to a clean slate being started.

I told him in my appeal: We stand by you, we will not abandon you, we will extend help. All this is conditional upon his departure at the right moment.

I, for one, fear Saddam will keep temporizing up to the last minute.

Even if he decided to withdraw then, it would be too late.

There is talk by some about "covert" agreements, or under-the-table agreements between Saddam and Bush.

Are we to believe this?!

The problem is that the Iraqi president does not seem to believe that the United States means business, means to use force if Iraq fails to comply with UN Security Council resolutions.

The Iraqi president thinks the Americans are "blustering."

He thinks the split within the U.S. Administration and with Congress will divide the Americans and topple President Bush. Sadly, these are illusions. All these differences of opinion are an integral part of the nature of the Americans and their open society.

President Bush called me a couple of days ago with New Year congratulations.

He then broached the Gulf issue. He said: My decision still stands, all the United States stands behind the UN Security Council resolutions, and If Iraq fails to leave Kuwait by the deadline, we will force it to do so.

I told President Bush: There is still time. We and the world will try to avert war and seek a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

If war breaks out, it will be like no other war. The war will be fought in the air, the president explains. There will be strikes on all sides. Bush and his aides have left nothing to chance. Even assuming that the air firepower predominates, there will be a massive concentration of land forces, armor, mechanized equipment, infantry, artillery, and other forces.

At stake for the American President are: The prestige of his nation as the superpower of the world, his Administration's credibility, the U.S. military's reputation, and his political career.

Do you see him throwing all this down the drain?!

Sadly, the president goes on, much irresponsible talk issues from Iraq's media.

They talk about attacking Israel when they will not do that, and even if they did, they would miss.

The outcome of all this irresponsible talk is Israel receiving further weapons, funds, waves of immigrants, and international sympathy.

Such irresponsible talk virtually invites the world to attack him.

We continue with the president in his open and frank discussion in all fields and on all topics. We ask about the "quadripartite council" [Arab Cooperation Council], about its heroes 'Ali Salih, King Husayn, and Saddam.

The president explains to us how the plan to involve Egypt militarily was exposed, which they called "the council's defense and security agreement", and how the three came to Alexandria determined, in the position of the majority—three against one, namely, Egypt—to peddle the military agreement that forced us to be a party to any suspect or mercenary military operation against Arabs or neighbors, and to be at Iraq's side if it carried out any adventure.

[Mubarak] I told 'Ali Salih and the king clearly that I was committed to the Collective Arab Defense Pact, which includes all sides, and that I cannot be a party to another agreement that would conflict with it and that would be used against our brothers, with whom I am bound by a bigger and stronger treaty. After this, I told all of them that either this agreement be excluded, or Egypt will leave the quadripartite council, and the agreement was excluded.

[Al-Ansari] Why does the king adopt this strange and violent stand toward the crisis and Egypt?

[Mubarak] It is regrettable that the king takes this stand. Even after we differed in our viewpoints and assessments of the crisis, I treated the king with all respect based on our old friendship and relations. However, I do not know why he began to reverse the facts. How can he say that he came to Alexandria on 2 August having in his pocket "a timetable for withdrawal", which he had agreed with the Iraqi president, and that the announcement of Egypt's position and the failure of the Jeddah summit were the cause of Saddam's intransigence? Is this reasonable? And was it not more appropriate for the king to discuss this timetable with us to avoid any differences? Moreover, how can he come to me and at the same time hide what he is carrying? I hear many stories that deepen my perplexity regarding his position and these baseless stories.

[Al-Ansari] We move on to discuss the region, the arrangements, and Egyptian and Gulf views. Mubarak insists on his view that Arab security is an Arab responsibility, that it is the Arabs who will defend the Arab land and wealth, and that stability based on cooperation will not be achieved except by the Arabs through an Arab concept and system.

But, Mr. president, the Gulf Cooperation Council, in its final communique and in its leaders' speeches, mentioned the neighbors' role, such as Iran and Turkey, and the friends' role.

The president: Of course, no one can ignore geography or his neighbors. And there is a big difference between treaties, agreements, and arrangements with neighbors or friends on the one hand and a system for Arab security on the other; or between joint existence or joint defense action on the one hand and maintaining peace and stability on the Arab land on the other. Let us not go too far, for we have the joint defense agreement and bilateral and multifaced coordination.

Mr. president, what is your perception of the Arab order and Arab situation after the settlement of the crisis? Has the collective formula, represented by the Arab League, ended? Will we return to the policy of councils in a new form and new formations?

Mubarak replies with certainty and confidence: I believe that the Arab order will continue within the framework of the Arab League. We may discuss some of the negative aspects, and we may add to it or develop it. All this is possible. However, the Arab League will continue to exist and to be stronger, and Arab order and solidarity will also continue to exist. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Water Program, Rebels in South

EA0701202091 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1445 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The chairman of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, announced that 10 million pounds will be designated for the implementation of the urgent water program for Northern Kurdufan. The donation was made after a series of meetings he held on Sunday [6 January] with the executive leaders, popular committees, natives, administrators, and prominent figures in the area. The meeting discussed the problems that faced the region in all aspects.

Gen. al-Bashir has also donated 2 million pounds for Al-Muqlad Popular Committee and 1 million pounds for the support of services of Lagawa and Babanusah Towns, in addition to the drilling of five wells at Abyei. He had announced that a program will be prepared for the rehabilitation of Abyei and its suburbs.

Gen. al-Bashir said the government had laid out plans to get rid of the rebels in Southern Kurdufan this year.

Al-Bashir Addresses Khartoum Demonstration

EA0601165291 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Khartm, 5 Jan (SUNA)—The people of the National Capital Commission yesterday tributed their allegiance to the RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman and prime minister, General 'Umar al-Bashir. Huge masses of people gathered at Arkoweit Quarter, Southern District of Khartoum, yesterday evening and recited a text on their homage to Gen. al-Bashir as a leader responsible for preserving Islam, expanding justice and shura consultations amongst the Muslim people and secure the nation from danger and hunger.

The allegiance ceremony was addressed by Gen. al-Bashir who stressed that the independence of the Sudan was fully completed after the declaration of Shari'ah, saying the National Salvation Revolution was mainly aimed at the emancipation of the country from humiliation and being subordinated to the will of colonialism. Strongly vowed that march which was already launched will not stop emphasising that the whole world will observe that the Sudanese people have determined to worship and to rely on Allah only. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, Gen. al-Bashir has called for the immediate unity of the Muslim nation under the banner of "no God except Allah" and for the removal of the imaginative borders which were drawn by the colonialists so as to stir up dissension among Muslims. He described the recent removal of borders between Darfur Region and the Libyan Sert Municipality as step forward for overall Islamic unity.

RCC, Ministerial Council Meet on Gulf Crisis

EA0601184491 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council and the Ministerial Council convened a joint meeting this morning at 1000 headed by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the revolutionary and ministerial councils. Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul

enlightened the councils about the Gulf crisis in all its dimensions and gave a comprehensive evaluation of the war and possibilities of peace in the region. He reviewed the positions of the various sides and touched on the current developments aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Defense Minister Lt. Gen. (retired) 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan presented another report on the strategic article [word indistinct] and the (?extended) Arab national security and the precautionary measures which have been taken in case of war.

Foreign Minister, RCC Member Meet Iranian Group

EA0401143491 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1014 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan (SUNA)—Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, the minister of foreign affairs, reviewed during his meeting here yesterday with Mr. Hosein Sheikh-ol-Eslam, the Iranian assistant minister of foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation ways of developing Sudanese-Iranian relations in all spheres, in addition to the developments in the Persian Gulf. The Iranian official also conveyed to the minister of foreign affairs greetings to Sudan from the leadership and the people of Iran on the declaration and subsequent implementation of Shari'ah Islamic laws and the independence anniversary.

In a separate development the Iranian assistant minister of foreign affairs reviewed with Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, the situation in Sudan, especially the southern Sudan problem, and the efforts of the National Salvation Revolution to solve the problem peacefully. The Iranian official expressed his country's support for the revolution's directives in this regard. Staff Col. Khalifah accepted an invitation made to him by the Iranian delegation to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran at a date yet to be fixed.

RCC Member Tours Northern Region, Talks of Famine

EA0601181291 Khartoum SUNA in English 1021 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jan (SUNA)—Deputy RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, said yesterday that talk of famine in Sudan was meant to offend Sudan's people and Government. Addressing a mass rally held at Al-Matama Town, Northern Region, yesterday, Maj. Gen. Salih affirmed that the revolution had intended to tear import bills one after another and in a short period.

On the other hand, member of the RCC Colonel Salah al-Din Karrar, who is accompanying Maj. Gen. Salih on his tour to Northern Region, accused groups and foreign countries of plotting against Sudan because of its domestic resources and potentialities. He said that the current year would witness a development in Sudan's foreign relations.

Justice Minister Discusses Islamic Law

EA0501155091 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan (SUNA)—Major General Ahmad Mahmud Hasan, the justice minister and attorney general, stressed in a press statement today that there was a difference between the May 1983 implementation of the Islamic shari'ah and that promulgated by the National Salvation Revolution. His excellency stated that the May implementation was suspicious in that it was used as a cover-up so that the regime could continue in power. The (?former) regime did not truly believe in [words indistinct] inasmuch as they wanted to continue ruling. The matter to them was a mere [word indistinct] without belief [words indistinct].

'Massive Demonstrations' To Support Islamic Law

EA0501151291 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Today the masses in the capital came out in large numbers to take part in massive demonstrations to support and express allegiance [mubaya'at] to the revolution's leader Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir for his brave decision to apply the Islamic Law in the country. Late this afternoon the masses will reaffirm their support for the steps taken to apply God's law in the northern regions of the country when the leader of the revolution meets them at Arkoweit [District in Khartoum].

Meanwhile, support cables continue to be received supporting the leader of the revolution. His excellency received a cable from the [word indistinct] organization of Southern Sudan expressing support for the National Salvation Revolution's response to the ummah's demands by announcing the application of the Shari'ah, a matter which confirmed the depth and genuineness of the revolution. His excellency also received a cable from the League of Muslim Youth expressing support for Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir's decision to apply God's law in the country. It stressed that the Islamic Law was the Ummah's sole [words indistinct].

Government Demanding Money To Return Saudi Pilot

EA0401133091 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Reports from Khartoum say that the National Islamic Front authorities have made the issue of the Saudi pilot who recently sought refuge in Sudan into an issue for bargaining by demanding enormous sums of money in return for handing him over to the Saudi authorities. At the same time, negotiations are under way with the Iraqis in order not to hand him over if the Iraqis give yet more money. Some sources indicate that some leaders of the military council have received sums of money for handing over the pilot.

Kuwait

Envoy to CSFR Believes War Not Probable

LD0701194291 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1830 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Musa al-Sayf, Kuwaiti ambassador to Czechoslovakia, stated in prague today that the Kuwaiti Government in exile still believes that war will probably not break out in the Middle East after 15 January. It cannot be excluded with certainty, however, because Iraqi behavior is difficult to guess. The war would be a worldwide catastrophe, but there is still a possibility of averting it, the Kuwaiti ambassdor in Prague said.

Editorial Insists on 'Full Withdrawal'

PM0801142391 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Jan 91 p1

[Editorial: "A Decisive Week and Difficult Waiting"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] What can we say other than that we must wait for the remaining few days of this decisive week for the Gulf crisis, hard and bitter as that may be.

For two consecutive days, Wednesday and Thursday, there will be "discussions" and dialogue between the world, represented by the United States and Europe, and the Iraqi regime. Tomorrow, that is two days before the double dialogue is due to begin, there will be some European-U.S. coordination at a meeting to be held between the U.S. secretary of state and the Luxembourg foreign minister.

We repeat, once again, that we do not fear dialogue just as we do not fear peace, as long as such a dialogue is based on full commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions, without any partial solutions and without any concessions or bargaining that would enable Iraq to make any gain or reap any benefit from its treacherous and brutal aggression.

The difficult last chance peace phase, efforts, and contacts will, however, be no less serious than the war phase itself. It will be a diplomatic war requiring complete vigilance and caution, particularly as the Iraqi dictator will try all his crooked games and maneuvers. That is why all facts must be clear and all matters specific during the decisive dialogue days.

The first fact is that any talk of any partial withdrawal is totally rejected, and that full withdrawal must be completely linked to the restoration of the legitimate authority.

The second fact is that a mere Iraqi promise of withdrawal would also be rejected, because the Baghdad dictator does not know the meaning of commitment to any charter or promise, and because it would be neither fair nor just for Kuwait to remain a victim of occupation until Saddam al-Tikriti honors a promise he made in time of crisis for himself, his army, and his people.

Just as accepting an Iraqi promise of withdrawal is contrary to the UN Security Council resolutions, a phased withdrawal is also unacceptable and runs contrary to UN resolutions. It took Saddam and his invading armies two days to enter Kuwait. He should, therefore, be able to withdraw them in two days. U.S. CIA reports confirm that withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait should not take more than six days.

We clearly underline these facts so that the Iraqi tyrant does not circumvent them, sidestep them, or bargain over them to gain time, open gaps in the international alliance, or try to extend the Security Council deadline, which is only nine days away.

We have faith in God, ourselves, and the world and we believe that our country's liberation is imminent, but confidence should not preclude but should rather prompt caution. Rights upheld cannot be lost.

UK Prime Minister Arrives in Al-Ta'if

Received by Premier

LD0701005891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0035 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 6 Jan (SPA)—The British prime minister, John Major, has arrived tonight in Al-Ta'if. He was welcomed on arrival at Al-Hawiyaah airport in Al-Ta'if by His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister in the state of Kuwait; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and a number of officials. [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir

LD0701203291 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1917 GMT 7 Jan 91

[By Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION political editor, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia]

[Excerpts] Saddam Husayn has "no possibility whatever" of winning any conflict against the huge forces opposing him, Prime Minister John Major said today. [passage omitted]

Earlier, Mr Major had been visibly shocked by an album of macabre photographs of murder, maltreatment and pillage by the Iraqis in occupied Kuwait. The album was presented to him on the first full day of his four-day trip to the Gulf by the exiled crown prince of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'ad. Among its gruesome contents is a picture of a man hanging from a crane. The prime minister said Saddam must get no reward for his aggression. Nor must there be any compromise.

"If, with the whole world against him, the whole world backs down, what prospect peace on future occasions?"

he asked. His retort to those who continue to press for negotiations with the Iraqi dictator was that Kuwaiti people are being murdered, maltreated, abused and raped at the hands of the occupying Iraqis.

Earlier, amid conditions of unprecedented security, Mr. Major had talks with the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir Al Ahmed, in the exiled govermment's HQ, the luxury Sheraton Hotel in the dusty desert city of al-Ta'if, in western Saudi Arabia. The Amir told him that Saddam Husayn was egocentric, worried about his own skin and could not be relied upon to keep his word.

Afterwards Mr. Major said: "One of the things that strikes you very forcibly in these discussions is that you are actually talking to people whose country has been invaded and is effectively for the time being a massive prison camp in which atrocities are being committed daily by the Iraqis. That was very evident and the depth of emotion and feeling there about these matters was deeply evident as well."

The prime minister said: "I made it absolutely clear to the Amir the full-hearted support we have for the Security Council resolutions and the determination we and the allies have that Saddam Husayn must leave Kuwait voluntarily or be forcibly expelled." [passage omitted]

Major Comments on Talks

LD0701121191 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1105 GMT 7 Jan 91

[By Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION political editor, in Al-Ta'if]

[Excerpt] Prime minister John Major was clearly deeply moved today by macabre evidence of atrocities committed daily by the Iraqis in what he described as the "massive prison camp" of Kuwait.

Mr Major, on the first full day of his four-day tour of the Gulf, was presented by the Kuwaiti Government in exile with a 40-page leather-bound photograph album containing pictures of Kuwaitis tortured and murdered at the hands of the Iraqis. Among the photographs which so moved the prime minister was one of a man hanging from a crane. As well as the atrocity pictures, one photograph showed Hitler with some children, captioned "original". Below it was the famous TV picture of Saddam Husayn with the seven-year-old British boy Stuart Lockwood, which was captioned "copy". The presentation was made during Mr Major's talks with Kuwaiti ministers at the Sheraton Hotel in the dusty desert town of al-Ta'if, the seat of the exiled government.

The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jabir al-Sabah, told him he regarded Saddam Husayn as an egocentric worried about his own skin. Saddam was unpredictable, his word could not be trusted and morale was low among Iraqi troops occupying Kuwait.

After his talks with the amir and the crown prince, Sheikh Sa'ad, who is also prime minister of Kuwait, Mr Major said: "I made absolutely clear to the emir the full hearted support that we have for the Security Council resolutions and the determination that we and the allies have that Saddam Husayn must leave Kuwait voluntarily or be expelled forcibly. I made it equally clear that a partial withdrawal would not be satisfactory, that it had to be a full withdrawal and that there would be no negotiations and nothing to be gained by Saddam Husayn if he attempted to negotiate—for there was nothing to be had."

Mr Major added: "One of the things that strikes you very forcibly in these discussions is that you are actually talking to people whose country has been invaded and is effectively for the time being a massive prison camp and in which atrocities are being committed daily by the Iraqis. The depth of emotions and feeling shown about this matter was deeply evident."

He expressed his admiration for the way the people of Kuwait were acting during the occupation and his hope they would be free again soon.

"We talked for some time about the problems that will occur in the region and in Kuwait at the conclusion of this matter, whether it is concluded peaceably or not." Kuwait would need considerable reconstruction and the United Kingdom would be happy to assist in that.

Mr Major described his talks as "Extremely worthwhile and useful" and added: "No doubt we will have the opportunity either directly or through the ambassador for further discussions in the weeks ahead."

During his 45 minutes with the emir, he spoke of horror at what had been going on. He pointed out that the UK deployment of forces was the largest since the Second World War.

The amir thanked the prime minister for the help of the UK, which he regarded as one of Kuwait's oldest and most trusted allies. He said that Saddam Husayn could not be trusted and was not a man who could be relied upon to keep his word.

The amir said Saddam was hoping something would crop up between now and the UN January 15 deadline for the Iraqis to leave Kuwait which he could use to split the allies' unity. The amir felt a partial withdrawal would present problems because it might be accepted by the world as making things somehow better. What was needed was complete withdrawal with reparation.

The prime minister agreed and in later talks with the crown prince, the prime minister assured him Europe was united behind the United Nations resolutions. [passage omitted]

Appreciation Expressed for Nonaligned Movement

LD0701223691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2027 GMT 7 Jan 91

[From "The State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] Following the talks which Yugoslav Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar, chairman of the

Nonaligned Movement, held with his highness the amir, with his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, and with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister and other Kuwaiti officials, a responsible source at the premiership headquarters stated the following:

Kuwait was informed of the moves undertaken by the group of nonaligned states represented by Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, which have been seeking an end to the criminal Iraqi aggression against the state of Kuwait.

While appreciating the honorable stand of the Nonaligned Movement, which has resolutely stressed the need for Iraqi withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territories and the return of legitimacy, the state of Kuwait thanks the chairman of the group for his tireless efforts in this connection. It affirms that the aggressor Iraqi regime has haughtily and arrogantly persisted in frustrating all attempts to convince it to ensure the complete implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions by peaceful means.

Kuwait believes that owing to its stubborn stand, the Iraqi regime bears the consequences of its persistence not to implement the complete and unconditional withdrawal of its aggressor forces from all Kuwaiti territories before 15 January.

Oman

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Arrives in Muscat

On Two-Day Visit

NC0501091591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0510 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Muscat, 4 Jan (WAKH)—Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovak deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Muscat tonight on a two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He was met at the airport by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Abdallah Bin-'Ali al-Najjar, head of the European Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Khamis Bin-Hamad al- Battashi, head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Talks Held on Gulf

NC0501105691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0949 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Muscat, 5 Jan (WAKH)—A session of official Omani-Czechoslovak talks was held this morning. The talks were led by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovak deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The two sides discussed bilateral ties and matters of common interest. They also exchanged views on the Gulf crisis in light of the new Iraqi-U.S. agreement to arrange a meeting between their foreign ministers in Geneva.

The Czechoslovak minister is currently on a two-day visit to the sultanate.

CSFR Officials Comment

LD0501124891 Prague CTK in English 1123 GMT 5 Jan 91

[By unidentified CTK correspondent]

[Text] Muscat Jan 5 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, accompanied by presidential advisers Richard Wagner and Alexandr Vondra, opens talks today in the Sultanate of Oman, after their arrival here last night.

Oman is, according to Wagner, a promising market for Czechoslovak products with regard to its rapidly developing economy and its 9.4-percent growth of the gross domestic product last year. Oman has already shown its interest in trade in a wide range of products with Czechoslovakia, from Skoda cars to consumer goods, Wagner said.

Immediately after visiting a Czechoslovak anti-chemical regiment, based in Saudi Arabia to help in case of a chemical attack, Dienstbier said here that "Czechoslovak soldiers are fulfilling an honourable mission in Saudi Arabia...they are defending something very important that is absolutely clear to everyone who experienced Munich (1938)."

Vondra said the task of the unit is to help in defending Saudi Arabia and not to participate in an attack on Iraq or in the liberation of Kuwait. Dienstbier added that a possible crossing of the Saudi borders would require a special decision by the Czechoslovak Government which still hopes that the conflict will be settled by peaceful means.

Czechoslovak president's foreign policy adviser Alexandr Vondra told CTK today that scope has been opened for Czechoslovakia's cooperation with Oman, following talks between Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier and his Omani counterpart Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah.

Testifying to the well-developing relations between the two countries was also today's meeting between Dienstbier and the Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id at the Sohara Sea Resort.

Minister Dienstbier, accompanied by Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Lubomir Martak and presidential advisor Richard Wagner, discussed possible trade projects. Oman has offered Czechoslovakia a licence for oil mining in its deposits but the question is whether any Czechoslovak company has enough capital. Other subjects under discussion were possibilities of Omani investments or establishment of banks in Czechoslovakia.

Sultan Meets CSFR, UAE Officials

NC0501171091 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus gave an audience today to His Excellency Dienstbier, the Czechoslovakian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, who delivered to his majesty a written message from His Excellency Vaclav Havel, the president of Czechoslovakia. The audience was attended by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs; and the delegation accompanying the Czechoslovakian minister.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus granted an audience at his majesty's office today to His Excellency Major General Hammudah Bin-'Ali, the UAE [United Arab Emirates] minister of interior, who delivered to his majesty a written message from His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates. The audience was attended by his Excellency Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin Harib, the minister of the interior.

His excellency the UAE minister arrived in the Sultanate earlier in the day and was received by His Excellency Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin- Harib.

Oil Drilling Venture Confirmed

AU0801110891 Prague CTK in English 1712 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Muscat Jan 5 (CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovakia and Oman confirmed interest in joint oil prospecting and mining ventures, Czechoslovak President's Economic Adviser Richard Wagner told CTK after talks on economic cooperation with Omani partners here today.

Wagner is a member of a Czechoslovak delegation led by Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier which is currently on a visit to the Arabian Peninsula. The tour started January 2 and took the delegation to Saudi Arabia and Oman and is yet to take it to the United Arab Emirates.

Wagner said that in Oman Czechoslovakia could try what direct oil mining meant as the atmosphere in Oman was favorable for Czechoslovakia. Asked about the financing of such a project, Wagner said capital could be created through exports of goods to Oman which is interested, for instance, in Czechoslovak engineering products, cars and irrigation systems, and Czechoslovakia, in addition, produces almost everything that it needed for oil extraction.

Wagner added that Czechoslovakia must now concentrate on concrete deals in concrete countries, as regards oil it is, in his opinion, the Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

After talks here, the Czechoslovak delegation led by Jiri Dienstbier left for the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi.

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Reviews Gulf Situation

LD0701191691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of the national guards presided over a meeting which the Saudi Council of Ministers held in the afternoon on Monday 7 January at al-Yamamah palace in Riyadh.

Following the meeting, Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir made the following statement to SPA:

His Royal Highness 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz first conveyed to the Council of Ministers what the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the supreme commander of the armed forces, had told him about the impressions he—may God preserve him—had formed following his tour of inspection yesterday, Sunday, of the positions of the fraternal and friendly forces in the northern region. He also spoke on the esteemed King Fahd's praise for the high dynamic spirit he felt and the excellent comprehensive preparations that have been made for facing up to all eventualities and conditions, as he witnessed during his meetings with the officers and men of the fraternal Arab and Islamic forces and the friendly forces.

His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah said: The statement made by the custodian of the two holy mosques was clear and comprehensive and covered all the honorable stands taken and being taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as all the wise measures it has adopted since the start of the Iraqi aggression against the state of Kuwait.

The minister of information added: Afterwards, the Council of Ministers briefly reviewed the reports about the latest military, political, and economic developments in the Arab region in the light of a comprehensive evaluation of the current situation.

The Council of Ministers then studied a number of matters pertaining to local affairs and adopted the necessary measures respecting them.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: After reviewing the topics on its agenda, the Council of Ministers adopted a number of decisions which included the following: First, in response to a letter from His Royal Highness the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, the council approved the following measures:

1. To authorize His Royal Highness the minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, or anyone else whom His Royal Highness deputizes, to sign the final bilateral aviation agreement between the governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the form appended to the decision.

2. Once the agreement is signed, the final original copy of the agreement will be submitted to the Council of Ministers, so that it may issue the necessary decisions and decrees. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Syrian Foreign Minister

LD0701230291 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud—may God protect him—received on Monday in his office at the Royal Court in al-Yamamah Palace His Excellency the Syrian Foreign Minister, Faruq al-Shar', who conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques greetings from His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

UK Prime Minister Major Arrives in Riyadh

Welcomed by Crown Prince

LD0701112891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1037 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 7 Jan (SPA)—British Prime Minister John Major arrived in Riyadh this afternoon.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdallah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, welcomed his excellency at King Khalid International Airport. He was also welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, aviation and inspector general. [passage omitted]

Rules Out Extending UN Deadline

LD0701175191 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1640 GMT 7 Jan 91

[By Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION political editor, in Riyadh]

[Text] The prime minister tonight ruled out any question of extending the UN January 15 deadline for Saddam Husayn to quit Kuwait. He made this clear in a series of radio and television interviews towards the end of the first full day of his four-day visit to the Gulf.

Mr. Major said of reports that Iraq asked France to urge the UN to change its date: "There is no question whatsoever of altering that deadline, none whatsoever." He added: "We have known for some time that he (Saddam) might play games of this kind. But it is not something that we are prepared to contemplate. We very much hope there can be a peaceful solution. That is something that is very much in his hands."

The prime minister said he received a very impressive military briefing this afternoon in Riyadh. "The sheer scale of the air and other power is very remarkable. I hope Saddam Husayn realises what is ranged against him. There is no possibility that he can win any conflict, no possibility whatever," added Mr Major.

There was always a chance Saddam would withdraw at the very last moment. "While we hope that he will do so, we must prepare for war. We must wait and see what happens—the choice is his," said Mr. Major.

Received by King Fahd

LD0701230891 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, yesterday [7 January] received at his office in al-Yamamah Palace British Prime Minister John Major and the delegation accompanying him.

The audience was attended by the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz; the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; Foreign Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; the custodian of the two holy mosques' personal adviser, Ibrahim al-'Anqari; Minister of Health Faysal al-Hijilan; the custodian of the two holy mosques' ambassador to Britain Nasir al-Manqur; and British Ambassador to the kingdom Alan Munroe.

Further on SFRY Federal Secretary Visit

To Establish Diplomatic Ties

LD0601181691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1556 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Jan (TANJUG)—In our talks with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar today, we have agreed that full diplomatic relations between Yugoslavia and Saudi Arabia should be established. We have also agreed that this should be done as soon as possible. In accordance with this we shall initiate formal procedures for the implementation of our agreement today.

This was stated by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, who was speaking exclusively to TANJUG immediately after his second meeting today with Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, who arrived in Saudi Arabia last night on a two-day visit.

Al-Faysal and Loncar carried out an analysis of the Gulf crisis at their second meeting today. The Saudi foreign minister said in his statement to TANJUG that the situation in the Gulf is very serious and that the key to the resolution of the crisis lies in the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. He said that Baghdad's stands so far have been "disappointing and discouraging" because they ignore all peaceful appeals from all over the world.

On this occasion, too, al-Faysal welcomed and supported the peace mission of Yugoslavia in the resolution of the Gulf crisis. He said that this role is a constituent part of the efforts of the world community to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Gulf; in other words, to create the conditions to avoid the worst thing—war.

During discussions on bilateral questions, Loncar told his host about the reforms in Yugoslavia, the transition to a market economy, and the scope for investment of foreign capital in Yugoslav projects. In this connection the Saudi minister was particularly interested in Loncar's remarks concerning the possible scope for Saudi investment.

Late this evening Loncar visited the headquarters of the Gulf Cooperation Council, where he met with 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, the council's secretary general.

Meets Finance Minister, Departs

LD0701145991 Belgrade Tanjug Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1334 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Jan (TANJUG)—The Saudi crown prince, Amir 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and Federal Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar today confirmed the resolve of the two countries to establish full diplomatic relations. This was also discussed yesterday at a meeting between the federal secretary for foreign affairs and his host, Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, the Saudi foreign minister.

During today's meeting the Saudi crown prince—who received Loncar in the name of King Fahd, who is absent from Riyadh—paid great tribute to Yugoslavia for everything it is doing to remove the danger of war in the Gulf. He insisted in particular on the continuation of the peace mission of Yugoslavia as president of the Nonaligned Movement, and more he again stressed the role of Yugoslavia in the achievement of the Movement's unity.

Regarding Saudi-Yugoslav relations, it was concluded that great possibilities for comprehensive cooperation existed. According to the Saudi Crown prince, "Our relations are entering a new phase of more profound and more comprehensive cooperation."

Today Loncar also had a meeting in Riyadh with Saudi Finance Minister Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl. In the course of the meeting their attention was focused on consequences of the Gulf crisis. Loncar briefed the Saudi finance minister on consequences Yugoslavia is suffering because of the crisis, and said that our country was one of the most seriously affected countries in the world. The Yugoslav foreign secretary expressed his hope that this fact would be taken into consideration during the forthcoming meeting of finance ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council].

Minister Aba al-Khayl said that this fact would be taken into consideration at the meeting of GCC ministers, and stressed that the GCC had an additional obligation because of Yugoslavia's stance on the crisis from the very beginning.

Loncar informed the Saudi minister about the reforms being implemented in Yugoslavia and our orientation toward a market economy. He mentioned possibilities of economic cooperation, particularly in the financial sphere. Opening of a Saudi bank in Yugoslavia was also discussed.

Loncar's meetings in Riyadh today marked the end of his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. In many aspects this has been an extremely successful visit. First of all, Yugoslavia received enormous praises for everything it is currently doing in view of finding a peaceful and political resolution to the Gulf Crisis. Apart from that, according to what has been heard over the past two days, the activity of Yugoslavia has an incalculable value for the unity of the Nonaligned Movement.

In spite of the very busy schedule of his peace mission, the Yugoslavia foreign secretary never neglected bilateral relations. A way has been paved for the establishment of full diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, and nobody could expect more than that.

United Arab Emirates

Syrian Defense Minister Meets With Counterpart

Discusses Gulf Crisis

NC0601193191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Dubai, 6 Jan (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, minister of defense in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met with General Mustafa Talas, visiting Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister, this evening.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY [WAM] said that their discussions dealt with the developments in the area and the new international political and military developments in the Gulf crisis. Views were also exchanged on future possibilities and the current international options to find a just solution to the Gulf crisis.

WAM said that General Talas inspected the Syrian forces stationed in the UAE today.

Departs Following Talks

NC0701082591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Dubai, 7 Jan (WAKH)—Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense General Mustafa Talas left Dubai this morning, following a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

He was seen off by Major General Shaykh Muhammad 'Ubayd al-Maktum, Defense Ministry under secretary, Syrian Ambassador Mustafa 'Imran, and a number of senior officers.

Somalian President's Aides Arrive in Abu Dhabi

AB0701162291 Paris AFP in French 1558 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Jan (AFP)—About 70 Somali nationals, including close aides of Somalia's President Mohamed Siad Barre and several ministers, arrived in Abu Dhabi on board a Somali aircraft last night, it was learned today from reliable sources at the Abu Dhabi Airport. These Somali nationals, most of whom had diplomatic passports, "took refuge in the United Arab Emirates in view of the deteriorating on situation in Mogadishu," where fierce fighting has been going for a week, the same sources added.

Czechoslovakia's Dienstbier Arrives on Visit

Makes Statement

NC0601114591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (WAKH)—Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovak deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Muscat this evening [5 Jan] leading a delegation on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah.

The Czechoslovak official said he is bringing a message for UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel.

In an arrival statement to the UAE news agency, he added that the purpose of his visit is to improve and widen bilateral relations. He noted that his country, which remained isolated for 40 years, is making strenuous effort to normalize its relations with all countries, especially with the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.

He described Czechoslovak-UAE ties as the most developed in the Gulf region and pointed out that the UAE is only country in the region where there is a Czechoslovak diplomatic representative.

He remarked, however, that these relations are still less than they genuinely could be, emphasizing that these ties could be promoted significantly after the Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has ended.

Asked for Czechoslovakia's view of the way to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, he stressed the need for "Saddam Husayn's withdrawal from the whole of Kuwait without compromises" and asserted the need to bring about this withdrawal by all available means.

He expressed the hope that the crisis will be resolved peacefully and that the solution will be a principled and complete one.

He recalled what happened in his country in 1938 when the world disregarded Hitler's occupation of Czechoslovakia in the hope that this would avert war. The result, he said, was the opposite because Hitler began the war only months after he occupied Czechoslovakia, using Czechoslovak heavy industry and the weapons he seized, which at the time were the best weapons in Europe.

Asked whether his tour of the region is connected to the Gulf crisis, he said that the day before yesterday he visited the Czechoslovak contingent of the multinational forces positioned in Saudi Arabia against the Iraqi aggression.

The Czechoslovak official's visit to the UAE is the last leg of a tour that took him to Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The UAE and Czechoslovakia decided to establish diplomatic relations as of 1 June 1988.

[Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic at 0930 GMT on 6 January also reports, "The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Czechoslovakia have affirmed the need for the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi invasion forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government in implementation of the will of the international community and the Arab and UN resolutions. During their meeting this morning, UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah and Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovak deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also affirmed that there is still an opportunity for a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis despite the fact that the deadline set by the UN Security Council is nearing. The Iraqi regime must respond to the peace initiatives and adopt a courageous decision to withdraw from Kuwait to spare Iraq and the region the calamities of a devastating war.

["The two foreign ministers discussed cooperation between the two countries in a number of fields. The two parties affirmed their desire to strengthen and develop such cooperation in the various fields for the benefit of the two countries and peoples.

["The meeting was attended by some members of the delegation accompanying the Czechoslovak official and the Czechoslovak charge d'affaires in the UAE."]

[Also, Manama WAKH in Arabic at 1022 GMT on 6 January in an Abu Dhabi-datelined item adds, "United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel. The message deals with the latest developments in the Gulf region and with the need to implement international legitimacy's resolutions on the complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of the Kuwaiti Government under its amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

["In his message, the Czechoslovak president extended an official invitation to Shaykh Zayid to visit Czechoslovakia.

["Jiri Dienstbier, the Czechoslovak deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conveyed the message when his highness received him today."]

Meets President on Gulf

LD0601162991 Prague CTK in English 1515 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi Jan 6 (CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier held talks here today with president of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and his UAE colleague Rashid 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Nu'aymi.

Minister Dienstbier, accompanied by presidential advisers Richard Wagner and Alexandr Vondra, is winding up his five-day tour of the Arabian Peninsula which took him to Saudi Arabia and Oman and ends tonight.

In a debate on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the UAE president expressed the conviction that Iraq is not as strong as the West believes and could be defeated within two or three days. Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Palous, who is also a member of the Czechoslovak delegation, commented to CTK that this was "the most optimistic assessment the Czechoslovak delegation ever heard as the majority of other estimates spoke of weeks".

Shaykh Al Nuhayyan said the occupation of Kuwait succeeded in an unprecedented way in uniting the world's "forces of good" against representatives of evil who violated laws.

Both Shaykh Al Nuhayyan and Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Nu'aymi appreciated Dienstbier's visit at the time when war is threatening Arab states in the Gulf. Palous told CTK that it has been confirmed that the political impact of the presence of a Czechoslovak anti-chemical regiment in Saudi Arabia considerably exceeded its military significance.

Palous further said Czechoslovakia should not waste the opportunities provided by the favourable climate for Czechoslovak goods and for this region's investments in Czechoslovakia. He stressed the need for expanding the network of Czechoslovak embassies as well as exports of goods to this region. While Czechoslovakia has been maintaining relations with Oman for fourth months and it had no relations before at all with Saudi Arabia, its diplomatic ties with the United Arab Emirates have been developing since 1988 and trade relations are in their second decade, with last year's trade turnover amounting to 18.1 million dollars.

Asked whether Czechoslovakia's political decision not to export weapons was in harmony with the fact that possible Czechoslovak arms supplies, in which countries of the region are interested, are one of the subjects discussed during Dienstbier's visit, Palous said this decision is naturally valid but cannot be implemented overnight and trade interests must be respected. An apt interpretation of Czechoslovakia's position would be—not to support the militancy of certain officials in regional conflicts, but given the need to build a certain military system within the framework of maintaining stability on the Arabian Peninsula, which might be able to cope with future crises, it is an acceptable solution from the view-point of Czechoslovakia's concepts, said Palous.

Abu Dhabi Talks Reviewed

LD0601231591 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 6 Jan 91

[By special correspondent Michal Michalcik in Abu Dhabi]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It can be said that of the three Arabian countries which the head of our diplomatic services visited, we are closest to the United Arab Emirates. We had even entered into diplomatic relations with this federation in 1988. All this was reflected in today's talks between Foreign Affairs Minister Jiri Dienstbier and President Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, as well as with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid Bin-Abdullah Ali al-Nu'aymi.

The talks with the head of state took place in a particularly philosophical spirit. Every cloud has a silver lining, President Zayid said in connection with the crisis in the Gulf. We are very pleased that the world community has united in such a way against Husayn, he added. The Abu Dhabi standpoint is that if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait by the deadline, use of force against it is unavoidable.

The head of the Diplomatic Corps Rashid Nu'aymi appreciated the fact that our anti-chemical unit was sent to Saudi Arabia. This step considerably influenced the attitude of Arab countries to Czechoslovakia the minister emphasized.

Interest in extending economic contacts was emphasized at both meetings. In the Emirates they are interested in our glass, textiles, construction materials, sugar, and also in larger construction investments. Our country wants businessmen from the Emirates to invest in our hotels, reconstruction of spas and enterprises; however, they require guarantees. For this reason an agreement on the protection of mutual investments and on the prevention of dual taxation should be signed in the near future.

Representatives from the Emirates should begin the construction of an Islamic Cultural Center in Prague this year. This complex should include a Mosque, education areas for Islam, and a library.

Czechoslovakia has once again begun knocking at the door of the countries of this Peninsula. Following this visit by Jiri Dienstbier it can be said that we found an open door not only Riyadh and Muscat but also in Abu Dhabi.

Dienstbier, Delegation Depart

NC0601185791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Jan (Wakh)—Jiri Dienstbier, Czechoslovak deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Abu Dhabi for home this evening after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of a tour during which they visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman.

During his visit, the Czechoslovak official held talks with senior UAE officials on bilateral relations and the situation in the Gulf.

Jasim Denies Helicopters Crossed to Saudi Arabia

JN0701220091 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2147 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has strongly denied the U.S. CNN report that four Iraqi helicopters defected to Saudi Arabia tonight. This is a baseless and unfounded report, he said.

In a statement to INA tonight, Jasim said the report is part of the attempts by the United States to create confusion and the wishful thinking of the losers cooperating with it.

What that confirms the falsehood of this report, Jasim said, is that Iraqi aircraft were not engaged in any activities today.

Official Interviewed on Gulf Crisis, U.S. Plans

JN0601153091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1243 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Interview with Staff Major General Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman, head of the Moral Guidance Directorate and editor-in-chief of the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, by unidentified reporter; place, date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Maj. Gen. Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman, the situation in the Gulf crisis is leading toward military escalation and aggression. How can we assess this escalation after all this time since the crisis began?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The current escalation in the Gulf crisis is calculated in light of the U.S. Administration's plan to approach the military option. This calculated escalation is based on the goal the U.S. Administration is seeking through its presence in the region. It is very clear that the invasion of the holy lands by the U.S. Administration forces, as well as the deployment of the other foreign forces in the Gulf region, were not motivated by the economic factor or so-called vital U.S. interests in the region. We can say that the interpretation of these interests basically pointed to the necessity of aggression against Iraq. Therefore, military action or aggression against Iraq was a principal or central goal of the entry of the U.S. forces into the region. In light of this, it is not strange to see at this stage and after the passage of all this time, a premeditated escalation of the crisis by the U.S. Administration with the aim of approaching the war option, or aggression against Iraq. We say we do not rule out or view this escalation as strange, since it is part of the U.S. Administration's plan to carry out the aggression, which was the goal of that administration before its invasion forces entered the region. This goal was crystallized and was considered one of the strategic goals, especially after the U.S. Administration found a chance to exploit the so-called Gulf crisis.

Therefore, the current escalation is being calculated within the planned aggression against Iraq. The postponement or delay of this aggression is an attempt by the U.S. Administration to select the right time, guarantee certain requirements, and provide the opportunity and circumstances that can guarantee its entry into aggression on the basis of favorable calculations. The U.S. Administration believes it has reached this phase, or has achieved at least some of these steps.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the confrontation, if it occurs, will fall into the U.S. Administration's plan?

['Abd-al-Rahman] In fact, the problem of the U.S. decision to launch an aggression is that when it tries to carry out the military option, the U.S. Administration's military planning capability is always faced with Iraqi measures that frustrate the many guarantees the U.S. Administration expects from its aggression. This problem has been behind the postponement or suspension of the military option all this time. There are no factors deterring the U.S. Administration from using force to reach its goals, especially when the use of force is not only aimed at guaranteeing vital U.S. interests, but also at reinforcing the joint strategic goal with the Zionist entity. But the postponement and the suspension have occurred as a result of Iraqi reaction and the Iraqi measures to be taken in case of aggression. This always frustrates American calculations and expectations. Therefore, the U.S. Administration has delayed the aggression, and is maneuvering to try to invest time and secure more resources and appropriate circumstances to carry out the military option.

We say here that over the past months since the Gulf crisis erupted, the United States continued to plan for an aggression, but these plans have not been implemented. The reason is that the U.S. Administration is convinced that its precise planning of formulas to use force cannot in reality be implemented exactly as planned. That is, there is going to be a big gap between the U.S. Administration's plans for aggression, the actual implementation, and the results. This, indeed, is the dilemma of the military option. We say that the past months have not changed this dilemma; indeed, they have worsened it, for the very simple reason that Iraq's political position has become clearer, and its military preparedness in the governorate of Kuwait is stronger and firmer in countering the prospects of aggression. Furthermore, the conviction of the Iraqi fighter and the resolve of Iraq throughout this period, while observing the changes the U.S. Administration is trying to create with a view to conquering Iraq's will, have tipped the balance in favor of Iraq, especially since Iraq is defending its territory, sovereignty, and dignity.

Therefore, the U.S. Administration makes a big mistake when it believes that by escalating the crisis toward war, it can reach a stage where the implementation of the military option can be close to the level of planning. This crisis will continue and [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Staff Major General Mundhir 'Abd-al-Rahman, head of the Moral Guidance Directorate: It seems from the course of events that the party to this

crisis is the United States. Will the confrontation be confined to this party, or does the Zionist entity have a role to play in this confrontation?

['Abd-al-Rahman] When we read and follow military events in terms of their political developments, we always find that they are linked to certain objectives, and seek to achieve specific goals. When we agree, and the world agrees with us, that the U.S. Administration is looking forward to perpetrating an aggression against Iraq, it is certain that the aim has absolutely nothing to do with economic aspects linked to vital interests. The main target, as is known to all, may be Iraq's military capability and its national role in this region. So, when we say that the aggression against Iraq is aimed at weakening Iraq's military power and its national role—and this is a declared fact which the U.S. Administration at all levels has not tried to conceal—we must pause a little. As long as the aim is to weaken Iraq's military power, we should not isolate this aim from the Zionist entity's ambition or position.

It can be said that one of the Zionist entity's strategic objectives at this stage—indeed, since Iraq emerged victorious from the eight-year war—is to confront and weaken Iraq's capability and end Iraq's national role. Therefore, we cannot deal with the U.S. Administration's aggression against Iraq as only a U.S. objective and decision. It is a joint U.S.- Israeli aim and decision. When there is a common aim at this level of planning and interests, then the aggression must be implemented jointly. Yes, there are many claims at the level of news media and through statements by the Zionist entity that this entity, as said, is removed from the events of the crisis or is standing outside its hot interactions. But at the level of implementation, if the [word indistinct] aggression against Iraq takes place, the Zionist entity will not be removed from the developments of the encounter for a very simple reason: the U.S. Administration's objective of the aggression is basically the objective of the Zionist entity. In light of these facts, we cannot possibly imagine that the Zionist entity will not participate in the aggression to achieve its goals.

And whatever apparent shifts there have been in the stand of the Zionist entity amount to little more than deliberate political maneuvering and job distribution calculated to afford U.S. Administration a better chance to marshal forces, so as to confine the crisis to Iraq and the U.S. Administration. The Zionist entity's approach at this juncture, and over the past few months, has been nothing more than a maneuver to give the U.S. Administration cover for ordering some of its regional lackeys into action to invest their political decisions and their military postures in the promotion of the military option or their military moves that would eventually lead the U.S. Administration to aggression. But if it should come to aggression, and should the U.S. Administration decide to go to war against Iraq, the Zionist entity is bound to be the key player, simply—as I pointed out earlier— because the U.S. Administration and the Zionist entity share the strategic goal of weakening Iraq. It is inconceivable that the Zionist entity would remain insulated from the confrontation.

[Reporter] Major General: The military situation being as you describe, what can you tell us about Iraq's ability to stand up to this aggression?

['Abd-al-Rahman] In actual fact, Iraq's ability to stand its ground against this aggression is not to be measured against conventional military yardsticks. Iraq's ability is two- dimensional—combining material power gauged in terms of well-known resources with willpower, experience, and faith. We have no argument with the fact that the U.S. Administration has access to a huge arsenal and sophisticated weaponry. Nor do we deny that the U.S. Administration intends to deploy its military capabilities and that these pose a threat. However, in rating Iraq's chances in any confrontation with U.S. forces, the following two factors must be taken into account: Iraq's military potential, and the Iraqi Armed Forces' combat experience and skill, in which the U.S. military is undoubtedly deficient. Add to that the factor of faith—a fact all of us realize. Here, we are backed up by military analysts weighing Iraq's famous, advanced military capability, coupled with such factors as combat experience, the will to fight, and faith. Accordingly, when Iraq takes on aggression, it does so drawing on its indigenous military and moral resources. A combination of these factors tips the scale in Iraq's favor, despite the U.S. Administration's calculations of an American edge thanks to their technological knowhow. If previous wars and experience are any guide, military power alone does not decide the outcome to suit the political decisionmakers. Of vital importance is a fusing of military power and the will to fight. We believe—and we are backed up by a good many analysts—that Iraq can bank on not only a convincing arsenal, but an unquestioned resolve to fight—something that has led the U.S. Administration to be so wary and circumspect as to have shelved the military option for so long. And if the United States dared to wage war, it would be surprised at this fusion of high morale, faith, and military power. Therefore, Iraq will remain strong, victorious, and optimistic as to the outcome of a confrontation, if it came to that.

[Reporter] We thank Major. Gen. Munthir 'Abd-al-Rahman, head of the Moral Guidance Directorate.

Ramadan Comments on Dialogue With Baker

JN0701214091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2106 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] This evening the PLO staged a popular central rally in Baghdad on the 26th anniversary of launching the armed Palestinian revolution and the anniversary of the Palestinian martyrs' day.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, made a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the Palestinian masses and

their valiant intifadah inside the occupied Arab territories, while waging their legitimate struggle to liberate the Palestinian soil in full.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: These are decisive days as we oppose the U.S.-Zionist buildups of injustice and aggression that defile our lands and sanctities and seek to bring us to our knees, impose hegemony on us, plunder our wealth, and control our present and future; thus, the mother of battles brings to focus all the causes of the nation and its just rights to political, economic, and social liberation. [words indistinct] to soar in the sky of humanity which is free of injustice, corruption, greed, and [word indistinct].

He also asserted that this is the great confrontation which includes all the meanings of Arab challenges, pride, and steadfastness in the past, present, and future. Palestine and the liberation of Palestine, he added, is in the forefront of all issues related to pan-Arab destiny.

He also asserted that struggler President Saddam Husayn's initiative launched on 12 August 1990 to achieve a comprehensive, just settlement to all the issues and problems of the region, primarily the Palestine question, represents the linchpin of Iraq's constant, principled stance, which we believe our eternal nation, throughout its great homeland, adheres to as the basis for its present and future struggle, which will no doubt be the basis of the dialogue which we will hold on 9 January in Geneva with the U.S. secretary of state and in every other bilateral meeting in the future.

The rally was attended by comrade 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; members of the Regional Command of the Party Mizban Khadr Hadi, Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, and a massive crowd of citizens.

Paper Calls on Bush To Disavow 'War Mania'

JN0801104491 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0730 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has called on Bush to disavow and relinquish the war mania and expansionist dreams and resort to the logic of right and peace.

In an editorial today, the paper says: Bush has imagined that persistence in the war mania he is haunted by could intimidate Iraq and bring it to its knees. However, after the passage of time following the events of the day of the call [2 August], Iraq's firm principles toward resolving the Gulf crisis, and Iraq's readiness for confrontation and challenge, he realized that his imaginings are sheer dreams, and that he resorted to war because peace constitutes a big impasse for him and for his administration.

The paper stresses that the ugly American has imposed war on us, and so, we will not evade it, but we will wage the battle with all means of force and resolution. The paper stresses that Iraq's heroic army is fully ready to confront the infidel grouping of foreign and American forces, and that the fingers of all our zealous fighters on the front of right are on triggers and their eyes are monitoring all the movements of the enemies wherever they may be.

The paper adds: If among his calculations Bush believes that his agents in the region such as the betrayer of the two holy mosques agent Fahd and Egypt's defeated and humiliated ruler Husni, would constitute an additional force in his military aggression, then he is deluded. The paper affirms that the mother of battles is not only Iraq's battle, but the Arab nation's battle. He will see for himself the fate of these agents, particularly Husni and the rest of the backward, traitorous, and defeated rulers when the Arab masses crush them and chop off their rotten heads. Fahd too will share the fate of the invading forces, and his dens will be the target of Iraq's military arm, which is not too far from him.

The paper holds Bush and the war advocates of the American West and the Arab agents, whose abode will be the dustbin of history, responsible for this war, its results, and consequences.

Concluding, the paper says: Iraq, with its military force and arsenal of weapons, and through the faith and resolution of its men in the Armed Forces, will make this war against it a long and costly one, particularly for the American and foreign forces and their interests in the region and the world, contrary to Bush's claims that it will not be another Vietnam, but a decisive war. This is nonsense in itself, slighting of minds, and indifference to world security. For he who does not believe this, we say that time will tell, and our witness will be the tens of thousands of eagles that will be roving the skies of the Arabian desert over the dead bodies of the Americans that will be scattered on the burning sands.

Newspaper Denounces Bush 'Propaganda Ploy'

JN0701150091 Baghdad INA in English
1230 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 7, INA—Iraq's English language newspaper THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER on Monday described U.S. President George Bush as a "narrow-minded and blinkered Dracula bent on attacking and invading Iraq".

In an article by-lined "No Bouquets for American Invaders" THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER warned that it would be a deadly mistake on the part of arrogant Bush to look at the present showdown in the Gulf as one between a mighty elephant and an ant.

"If the U.S. carried out its threat and attacked Iraq, a thing which nobody in this region wants, it will be a fight between a stupid elephant and a clever tiger" the newspaper said.

The paper said that Iraq was earnestly anticipating the day when all young American soldiers would return home without a single gunshot being fired, but if Bush pushed them into attacking Iraq, they would receive no bouquets.

"There is a great chance that only about one out of ten of U.S. soldiers involved will be able to return home alive" THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER warned.

The paper said that Bush seemed to be bent on attacking Iraq and all his tactics and attitudes were so oriented as would ensure committing such a crime with the support, or at the least the silence, of the American people and Congress.

As for Wednesday's face-to-face talks between Iraq Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Switzerland, the newspaper said that the "extra mile for peace" of Bush was no more than a propaganda ploy, since they were meant to "convey" to Iraq the U.S.-imposed anti-Iraq United Nations resolutions rather than conducting a dialogue or negotiations as insinuated by American and Western statements.

Whether the U.S. and Western statements on the would-be Switzerland talks were meant to be a propaganda ploy or not, was yet to be seen, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER concluded.

Bush Warned of 'Terrible Consequences' of War

JN0701092791 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0722 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has warned Bush against the terrible consequences he will have to face and the heavy price he will have to pay if he is deluded into committing an aggression against Iraq.

In an article today, the paper says: Bush continues to persist in his aggressiveness and arrogance, which is the worst presidential arrogance since the fall of Nixon. Bush continues to imagine that threats and intimidation can be useful when dealing with Iraq.

The paper refers to Bush's attempts to obliterate and hide the clear and tangible facts from the American people, and says: It is definite that the U.S. president, who is facing a strong and escalating opposition inside the United States and Congress, is trying to antagonize the Americans against Iraq through cheap and exposed means.

The paper affirms that Bush's dreams and ridiculous illusions will inevitably sink in the Gulf waters and will be buried by the sands of the Arabian peninsula, and he will reap nothing but disgrace, defeat, and the curse of history.

AL-'IRAQ Encourages Efforts To Prevent Bloodshed

JN0501115691 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0725 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—AL-'IRAQ says that Iraq strongly believes in international legitimacy, but to be fair, its criterion should be the same for all issues. In today's editorial, the paper says that Iraq will continue until the last moment to stress its belief in peace and its desire to avert war. In this approach, Iraq keeps the door open to all good efforts preventing bloodshed.

The paper adds: Iraq, which is concerned about world security, is very concerned about its own security and stability. And because it believes that the road to peace is not separate from its national sovereignty, any approach that does not take this fact into consideration will be a road of humiliation because it would encroach on its national right and its legitimate right to define its options and make its own moves.

The paper notes that the action of international legitimacy and the application of international law to all problems of concern to the international community on the basis of the same criterion is the road that will end crises and tension.

AL-'IRAQ says that the UN Security Council resolutions on the so-called Gulf crisis neither respect international legitimacy nor express the view of the international community because they are American resolutions adopted as a result of pressure from the White House and other American circles.

The paper quotes President Saddam Husayn as saying: We want peace. We respect international legitimacy, but others should also respect it. And the criterion showing respect for this legitimacy among those who speak about it is the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations on the Palestine question.

AL-'IRAQ notes that with this vigilant and responsible view, Iraq confirms that international law cannot be divided and international legitimacy cannot be sundered. Iraq also stresses the true path to serve society and a concern for the issues in light of principles that make no distinction between this or that issue nor satisfy this issue at the expense of that other. Peace will then prevail in the world, and international legitimacy will preserve its prestige and concept of justice.

Saddam Receives Message From Soviet Leaders

JN0801134691 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1257 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from the Soviet leadership.

The message was delivered by Soviet Ambassador in Baghdad Viktor Posuvalyuk. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Saddam Meets 'Arafat, Affirms Palestine Cause

JN0801140091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, and his delegation.

During the meeting, Yasir 'Arafat expressed the absolute solidarity of the Palestinian Arab people and their leadership with Iraq and President Saddam Husayn in confronting the imperialist-Zionist aggression. He affirmed that Palestine, Iraq, and all the Arab masses are eager for freedom and justice, and that they are standing in one trench to confront and crush aggression and stress the Arab nation's determination to achieve victory and a just peace.

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that the crux of the battle has been and will continue to be Palestine and its just cause. He emphasized that the ongoing conflict between the Arab nation with its good forces and the front of the imperialist and Zionist forces and their allies is a conflict for the sake of Palestine and the dignity of the Arab nation.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Yasir 'Arafat presented a copy of the holy Koran as a gift to President Saddam Husayn from the sons of our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territory.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

U.S. 'Hypocrisy' on Palestine Question Viewed

JN0401191791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0813 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the new massacre perpetrated by the Zionist repression authorities in the occupied Gaza Strip in the past few days gives further proof that the international parties controlling the United Nations and the UN Security Council have allowed themselves to become tools manipulated by American policy to serve the interests of the Zionist entity.

In an article today under the headline "The New Zionist Massacre and the International Policy of Hypocrisy," the paper says: The UN Security Council, which did not lift about the new heinous Zionist massacre, is the same Security Council that allowed the United States to use the cover of legitimacy to carry out aggression against the Arabs and Muslims. It is also the same Security Council that moved heaven and earth because Iraq restored a usurped right and played its pan-Arab role against the exposed serious plotting to destroy it politically, economically, and militarily.

The paper adds: America has pushed matters into procrastination and prevarication within the UN Security Council in a way that encouraged the Zionists to defy laws and norms, at the same time was brandishing its sword to threaten the UN Security Council members to force them to issue unjust and aggressive resolutions against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper says that the escalation of the Palestinian struggle against occupation and its repressive policy as well as the armed confrontations between the stone-throwing heroes and the Zionist military establishment and their moving to a more effective stage, have clearly exposed the United States' serious hypocrisy on the Palestinian people's cause and its full support for the Zionist aggressors against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Concluding its article, the paper stresses that the UN Security Council resolutions and its alleged neutrality were merely a cover to give the Zionists a free hand to perpetrate crimes and to execute the policy of killing and terrorism, and that only a strong will can restore the usurped rights now that the Palestinian people, under the PLO leadership, have realized that the arena of their struggle extends from Jerusalem to Baghdad.

Army Ready To Deal U.S. 'Severest Punishment'

JN0501130691 Baghdad INA in English 1205 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 5, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily confirmed that the Iraqi Army is the best example of the strong men, who firmly believe in the nation's principles and are keen to take advantage of any technical development, well aware of the historic responsibilities they bear for defending the land and sanctities.

In its editorial for today, the daily said that the remarkable efforts President Saddam Husayn exerted in building the Iraqi Army and developing its weaponry and combat-capabilities were in fact attempts made by a unique leader marked by wisdom, courage and heroism.

The daily added that this year, the Iraqi Army is proud to celebrate the occasion of its establishment while preparing for the great battle against the foreign invaders of the Arab lands and against the gathering of imperialists, Zionists and their allies and agents, in fulfillment of its commitments to liberating the holy lands and defending the nation.

It stressed that having finalized its military preparedness, the Iraq Army is eager to inflict upon the gathering of evil the severest punishment and teach them an unforgettable lesson.

Military Commander Expects 'Immense' U.S. Losses

JN0701113391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi military commander expects immense losses by the U.S. Forces in the Arabian Gulf if war breaks out.

In an analysis published by the newspaper AL-THAWRAH today, Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq Ya'qub Yusuf said that the United States is considering using military plans previously prepared for European regions in their Gulf strategy. Therefore, these plans are not appropriate for the desert nature of the Gulf even if highly sophisticated weapons are deployed. He added: Hence, U.S. President Bush declares that the war will be quick, not drawn out like the Vietnam war because he realizes the magnitude of the losses his forces and allies will sustain. The American military commanders are aware of the gravity of declaring a war in this region. Within the same context, there are mounting calls advising the U.S. Administration to abandon the war option and to resolve the crisis through peaceful means.

In his analysis, the Iraqi military commander affirmed that the foreign forces deployed in the Gulf face a big dilemma in view of the power of the Iraqi forces deployed there and the Iraqi forces' high combat capabilities which make it possible for it to destroy the enemy through military plans greatly enriched by an eight-year combat experience with Iran.

He said the U.S. forces will find themselves facing strong defenses with high combat experience fully employed to create a very strong and unprecedented defensive system created by the Iraqi mind.

Saddam Stresses 'High' State of Readiness

JN0701201391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1927 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—Comrade leader Saddam Husayn has met with senior members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 1936 GMT says Saddam Husayn met "today" with senior members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Military and Interior Forces Bureau]

During the meeting the comrade leader stressed the high preparedness of our Armed Forces and great Iraqi people to fight the forces of infidelity and aggression, defeat them, and achieve the decisive victory, God willing.

Comrade leader Saddam Husayn pointed out that Iraq, together with the Arab nation's masses and all virtuous and benevolent people in the world, confronts from the front trench the forces of tyranny and injustice which are occupying the land of our sanctities. He also stressed that Iraq, together with all Arab masses, will fight the forces of infidelity and aggression in a manner that satisfies God, the nation, and all benevolent people in the world until the Arab land is liberated from hegemony and social injustice, particularly the liberation of the land of sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and Holy Jerusalem.

The comrade senior members of the Party stressed to Comrade President Saddam Husayn their high preparedness to fight the enemies in the defense of the Arab nation's pride, dignity, and future. They renewed their pledge to remain loyal soldiers to the principles for which they have struggled, and are still struggling, behind comrade struggler Saddam Husayn's leadership of the march of our nation and great party.

Roads Completed in 'Operation Theaters'

JN0801113991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1033 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Housing and Reconstruction Minister Tahir Muhammad Hassun conveying to his excellency the good tidings of the completion of the second phase of roads in the operation theaters, totalling 1,400 km. The cable reads: [passage omitted]

During these days, your excellency, we bring to you the good tidings that your soldiers in the reconstruction regiments have accomplished, in only 140 days, the second phase of roads in the operations theaters, totalling 1,400 km, to be added to the 837 km accomplished in the first phase, thus completing 2,237 km. This is in addition to the alternative short cuts involving 13 bridges in the governorates of the southern sector, and other work necessary in the operations theaters. [passage omitted]

Air Force Adapts Hawk Missile Equipment

JN0701222691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—The air defense men have succeeded in adapting the equipment and devices of the modern, complex Hawk missiles.

In a cable he sent to President Saddam Husayn conveying the glad tidings of the successful adaptation, Staff Lieutenant General pilot Muzahim Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, said: Amid the celebrations of our great people on the anniversary of their stalwart Army, which is standing as an unshakable mountain in the face of imperialists, Zionists, and the betrayers of the nation and religion, on this immortal anniversary we convey to your excellency the glad tidings of the success of the Air Defense men in adapting the equipment and devices of the modern, complex Hawk missiles, overcoming all technical difficulties and obstacles in record time, and in preparing two missile batteries for full combat readiness. The rest of the batteries will be completed this month, God willing.

Our fighters are now ready to use them against the planes of invasion and aggression in order to make their weapons backfire, with a determination derived from your own.

My lord the valiant leader: As you have always known them to be, the men of the Air Force and Air Defense will continue as the spearhead and the long arm of our Armed Forces in any battle against the forces of atheism and infidelity. We pledge to you that we will continue to make nonstop sacrifices to win a definite victory under your wise and valiant leadership.

May God protect you as a symbol and defender of our nation, homeland, and heroic Army.

'Izzat Ibrahim, Delegation Leave for Tehran

JN0801100191 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0947 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has left Baghdad for Tehran at the head of a delegation on a several-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The delegation accompanying 'Izzat Ibrahim includes Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister, Muhammad Hamzah, transport and communications minister, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of officials.

'Izzat Ibrahim was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and a number of ministers.

Saudi Call for Islamic Meeting 'Null and Void'

JN0801122091 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1019 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—Dr. 'Irfan 'Abd-al-Hamid Fattah, secretary general of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization, has affirmed that the call made by Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, the advisor of the betrayer of the two holy mosques, and Muhammad Nasir al- 'Abbudi to convene an Islamic conference in the name of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization is null and void. The secretary general of the Organization said that the call to hold a popular Islamic conference or convene its executive council is within the jurisdiction of the secretary general in accordance with the basic statute of the Organization and proceeding from the second paragraph of Article 12. The president of the council has not yet authorized this right; therefore, the above-mentioned call is, to begin with, null and void.

He added that this attempt is an exposed desperate attempt to harm the international popular Islamic conference which we called for convening a month ago in view of the authority given us in accordance with the organization's basic statute. This conference will be held and its sessions will start tomorrow God, the Almighty, willing, with the participation of the vast majority of the members of the organization and leaders of Islamic movements, actions, and bodies in the world.

The secretary general of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization said that it is shameful for this suspect character who is being paid by the betrayer of the two holy mosques to become active in distorting the voice of jihad rising from the Baghdad of Arabism and Islam, which finds an echo in the conscience of each Arab and Muslim who repeats the slogan of "God is great and go forth and perform jihad to liberate holy Kaa'ba, the Medina of the great Prophet - God's peace and blessings be upon him - and Jerusalem. It is worth noting that the newspapers issued in Riyadh recently published a call by Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi and Muhammad Nasir.

'Vital Medical Supplies' Seen in Short Supply

JN0501183391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1620 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Mr. Sa'di Khalid Sa'd-al-Din, president of the Iraqi Pharmacists Association, and his delegation held a news conference in Amman at noon today to describe the brotherly Iraqi people's sufferings as a result of the total economic embargo against Iraq.

Mr. Sa'd-al-Din referred to the hardship experienced by Iraq as a result of shortages in certain medicines manufactured in Western nations that are indispensable for the treatment of certain contagious and chronic diseases. Details in the following report filed by Jawad al-'Umari:

[Begin recording] [al-'Umari] In Amman on a stopover on his way back home from an Arab Maghreb tour, Mr. Sa'd-al-Din pointed out that the purpose of the news conference is to familiarize the Jordanian people with the suffering of their brethren in Iraq because of a shortage of medicines.

[Sa'd-al-Din] We have been running short of a good many medicines and vital medical supplies usually available from foreign firms, leading to numerous cases of suffering and deaths among the elderly and children. For instance, we are in short supply of vaccines, plasma, and medication for heart conditions, diabetes, and cancer. We are also experiencing a dearth in children's milk, other medicines and foodstuffs that used to come from Western nations and which are indispensable for survival and immunity against contagious and endemic diseases, and whose absence has potentially dire consequences that extend beyond Iraq, since the world today, big as it is, is small thanks to advanced communications and modes of transport that make infection all that more likely.

[al-'Umari] He said that thwarting this unjust and illegal embargo must be pursued by all benevolent and legitimate Arab and world forces as a pan-Arab and humanitarian objective. As we declare our faith in a bright future for the Arabs and humanity, for which Iraq is striving, we appeal to all Arabs across the Arab homeland to make efforts toward breaking the blockade.

Supporting Iraq with medicines, milk, and vital medical provisions is part of a comprehensive effort to promote steadfastness and victory, he added. [end recording]

'Ibn Khaldoon' Still Surrounded by U.S. Navy

JN0701212491 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2050 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Basra, 7 Jan (INA)—The captain of the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon has emphasized that the vessel is still being surrounded by U.S. and Atlantic forces in Omani territorial waters five miles from the Port of Qabus.

Contacted by radio by the INA correspondent in the Governorate of al-Basrah, the ship's captain said peace messenger Mr. Labib Husayn was this morning transferred to a Muscat hospital after having taken ill. He said the ship suffered from a lack of medicines.

The captain of the peace ship stressed that the peace messengers were in very high spirits, and all the peace messengers were determined to continue their peace voyage to 'Umm Qasr Port.

KDP Official on Kurdish Movement, Gulf War

AU0701161491 Vienna PROFIL in German
7 Jan 91 pp 34-35

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Michael Siegert: "Two Millions in Concentration Camps"—place, date not given]

[Text] Jalal Talabani, 57, a lawyer from the Iraqi part of Kurdistan, began his career as first chief editor of the newspaper KHABAT (STRUGGLE) of the Kurdish-Democratic Party (KDP) of Iraq. In 1961 he turned the Peshmerga units of Kurdish tribes into a modern mountain guerrilla army shaped after the model of the Vietcong. After the Kurdish resistance was smashed in 1975, he founded the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), of which he has been secretary general until now.

[Siegert] Mr. Talabani, years ago the Kurds used to be a strong force in the Middle East. Now they are nothing but victims.

[Talabani] When, under the leadership of General Bazani, the Kurdish movement was strong, Baghdad did not dare to carry out an attack against the outside—either against Iran or Kuwait. Henry Kissinger is to blame for the destabilization. In 1975 he arranged the agreement of Algiers between the Iranian shah and Saddam Husayn with the objective of putting an end to the Kurdish national movement. Only after that did Iraq have a free hand for other objectives, for an aggression toward the outside, which it carried out in 1980 by starting the war against Iran.

[Siegert] What happened to the Kurds in 1988, after the end of the Gulf war?

[Talabani] When the war between Iraq and Iran ended, Saddam Husayn sent his troops to Kurdistan and started a destructive war using chemical weapons, even against Kurdish civilians. This led to the depopulation of the liberated Kurdish territories, where more than one million people used to live. They had to flee to Iran and Turkey, or move into the occupied Kurdish territories in Iraq. More than 5,000 Kurdish villages were razed by the Army. Some two million Kurds now live in concentration camps at the edges of the major cities in Kurdistan.

[Siegert] How would you describe the current situation of the Kurds in the Iraqi mountains?

[Talabani] Only partisans are left there. As early as in 1976 a 30-km-wide so-called security zone in the border areas began to be established. This security zone was "cleared" of Kurds, but meanwhile these territories have been extended to the center of the country reaching the banks of the Tigris River, which is 170 km away from the border. Between Tigris and Kirkuk and between Tigris and Harbin there used to be fertile plains with hundreds of Kurdish villages—they have all been destroyed.

[Siegert] How many fighters do you have up in the mountains?

[Talabani] Thousands of them. Yet, if necessary we are able to mobilize tens of thousands. Our struggle is aimed at forcing Saddam Husayn to withdraw from our territory. We do not want to conquer Baghdad but we want to have our rights recognized by the Iraqi regime. All we need are small, well-organized units which can appear everywhere, are very mobile, and can launch a surprise attack and then hide.

[Siegert] Are you in contact with the other Iraqi opposition groups?

[Talabani] Yes. All 17 opposition groups signed a joint document in the Syrian capital. It is intended to establish democracy in Iraq and to end national suppression. These groups include the Kurds, Arab Sunnis and Shiites, and leftists and rightists. All of them have illegal groups within the country, some of them even within the Army.

[Siegert] What does the document say in connection with the future fate of the Kurds?

[Talabani] Our agreement contains a reference to this effect: End national suppression, no Arabizing Kurdish territory, return the Kurds to their ancestral villages, and apply the agreement that the Iraqi Government concluded with the Kurds 30 years ago. It guarantees autonomy for Kurdistan within Iraq and the participation of the Kurds in the resolutions of the government in Baghdad. All 17 opposition groups have agreed to that.

[Siegert] What if there is only a coup within the regime?

[Talabani] Our situation cannot deteriorate. If Saddam Husayn is overthrown, the entire regime will come down along with him. Even if a group of military putschists

were to seize power, the Baith Party will disappear and its political control over the country will vanish. Such a new system would be weak because it would be exclusively based on the military. It would have to seek compromise with the United States, Kuwait, and all neighbors. Thus, it would also negotiate with the Kurds.

[Siegert] The Turks hope that in the event of war, the Americans will let them have their way in the north of Iraq, in return for their supporting the struggle against Saddam Husayn. What do you think of a Kurdish state under Turkish control in the north of Iraq?

[Talabani] We are in favor of a democratic government in Iraq and of the Kurdish people's right to self-determination within Iraq, of a really autonomous Kurdistan. If, in the course of an armed conflict, Turkey were to invade northern Iraq, then it would probably annex this area and not permit an autonomous Kurdish state, not even a puppet state. After all, even a Kurdish puppet state would encourage the Kurds in Turkey—some 15 million people, after all —and in Iran, as well as in other parts of the Middle East, to stand up. I think that in the end this will not be the case because such border changes would meet with resistance everywhere in the Arab world. Even the USSR and Iran would reject it.

[Siegert] Some Kurds in Turkey have expressed the fear that in the event of war the Turks might slaughter them as they massacred the Armenians in 1915.

[Talabani] If the Americans were to start a war today they could not permit a massacre with the international public watching, with television cameras everywhere. In 1915 there was no television. If the Turks invade Iraq they will not slaughter the Kurds but will try to win their sympathy so that the Kurds will go to Turkey. Thus, we will not lose anything.

[Siegert] Do you want another Gulf war or are you afraid of it?

[Talabani] I expect such a war, because Saddam Husayn will not withdraw from Kuwait. We Kurds will not lose anything in this connection and we are not afraid. Of course, a war is not what we want. We would rather have a peaceful, political solution. We would like to see the Iraqi people replace dictatorship by a democratic government that would withdraw from Kuwait.

Four Hamas Activists Deported to Lebanon 8 Jan

TA0801071891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0705 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] It has just been reported that the four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from the Gaza Strip were deported to Lebanon this morning. Deportation orders against the four men were issued on 15 December by the commander of the Southern Command because they acted on behalf of Hamas.

Shamir Says Military Confrontation Drawing Closer

TA0701194691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister said tonight that after the Gulf crisis ends Israel might face political dangers and the U.S. position toward us might change. Mr. Shamir was addressing the Likud Knesset faction. Mr. Shamir blamed Israeli elements who are interested in the Likud's failure and are trying to influence Washington up to the point that they do not care that in the wake of a Likud failure the State of Israel will face a setback. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin interviewed the prime minister a short time ago.

[Begin recording] [Halperin] What is Israel's political interest at this hour?

[Shamir] Israel's political interest is not to be harmed.

[Halperin] And not to be involved?

[Shamir] Not to aspire to involvement.

[Halperin] Do we have the ability to decide whether to be involved? Does it depend on us and the government's actions?

[Shamir] No, it does not entirely depend on the government or its actions. Had it depended on us we would not have had anything whatsoever to do with this whole crisis, but somebody wants to force us into being involved in this crisis. We should not help that person to succeed in his plot.

[Halperin] What are the messages you are transmitting to him, to Saddam Husayn, to make sure that does not happen?

[Shamir] I am not sending any messages to Saddam Husayn. I do not believe he would pay attention to any messages I might send. I tell our people that we must be balanced, firm, serious, and act coolheadedly.

[Halperin] Is it your evaluation or that of the government or those whose job it is to make such evaluations, that we are sliding into a military confrontation?

[Shamir] There are different evaluations going around in the world. The increasingly popular evaluation right now is a military confrontation is drawing closer. [end recording]

Shamir 'Harshly' Criticizes U.S. in Likud Address

TA0801111491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by Knesset correspondent Tova Tzimuqi]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has harshly criticized the United States, saying that had it not been for it, the UN Security Council would not have adopted the anti-Israeli resolutions which the United States fully approved of. "I am not saying that the Americans did this out of malice; I am saying that they did this because they believe they are right," Shamir told a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction. According to him, Israel is facing two threats: Iraq and the anti-Iraq coalition. He said that at the end of the Gulf crisis, Israel should expect to encounter strong political pressure, whose first signs are already discernible. "Once the Gulf crisis is over, we will have to face political threats," he said. [A similar report by Amnon Levi on page 2 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 8 January adds that speaking about the political threat posed by the anti-Iraq coalition led by the United States, the prime minister said: "As far as this second threat is concerned—the saber being rattled over our heads, which speaks about a drastic change in policy by using the United Nations as a means to impose things on us—the danger is real."]

As soon as he made these remarks, Shamir regretted having been so outspoken in his criticism of the United States and asked that his remarks not be included in the press release. In response to Knesset Member Hayim Kaufman's observation that they would be leaked no matter what, Shamir said they could be denied.

Shamir added that Israel nevertheless supports the U.S. stand vis-a-vis Iraq's aggression, but noted that it does not have much influence. "We should have strong nerves and keep our cool," he said. On the other hand, with regard to future relations with the West once the Gulf crisis is over, Shamir said that everything depends on our international standing, our strength, and our internal fortitude. Shamir added that if people abroad think the Likud is strong, they will learn to live with this fact and will have to take its views about the Middle East and Eretz Yisra'el into consideration. According to him, the domestic situation in Israel and within the Likud directly affects our international position.

Alluding to the Alignment, but without mentioning any names, Shamir said: "It is a fact that in the past few years, Israeli elements have been stirring up trouble in Washington, and this fact remains unchanged. These elements want to see the Likud fail so badly that they do not care that this would bring about Israel's downfall in its wake." Shamir also denounced the meeting between Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek and Faysal al-Husayni. [passage omitted]

[A report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish on page 1 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 8 January adds: "Earlier yesterday, Shamir

said that Arab states in the anti-Iraq coalition had agreed that Israel had the right to retaliate if attacked by Iraq.

"'The Arab states in the anti-Iraq coalition explained their position. If there will be an Iraqi provocation against Israel, Israel should respond as long as this will not harm the coalition,' an aide quoted Shamir as telling a visiting group of British parliamentarians.

"He did not describe the circumstances in which the Arab states had explained their position."]

Shamir Meets British Delegation, Discusses Gulf

TA0701121991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning received a 12-member delegation of British parliamentarians from both the Labor and the Conservative Parties. The prime minister discussed the Gulf crisis. After the meeting, our Knesset affairs correspondent Ze'ev Kohen spoke with members of the British delegation:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] The prime minister reiterated his statement that Israel will not launch a preemptive strike against Iraq, says Tim Devlin, British member of Parliament from South Stockton, who is also the delegation's chairman.

[Devlin, in English] I think it has been made quite clear to us that there will be no preemptive strike by Israel against Iraq. What we were interested also to discuss, however, was whether or not there will be a preemptive strike by Iraq against Israel and what Israel would do in that eventuality. Mr. Shamir said that, of course....

[Kohen interrupts, translates, and continues] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the delegation that as in the past, Israel's stand is that if attacked, it will deal with each blow according to the circumstances and will act to prevent further attacks.

The Prime Minister's Office said that the prime minister stressed to the delegation members that the Palestinians have been too deeply impressed by the threats of Saddam Husayn, who once promised to burn half of Israel, and that consequently there is no one to talk to.

The prime minister expressed the hope that after the Gulf crisis is resolved, we will be able to resume our peace initiative. When dealing with a leader like Saddam Husayn, Israel must be very cautious and be prepared for any surprise, which we are, said the prime minister. [end recording]

Levi Discusses New Post-Gulf Reality

TA0801111791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has expressed the belief that the period following the resolution of the Gulf crisis may engender new chances for political arrangements in the Middle East. Our correspondent Arye Golan pointed out that in a briefing to political correspondents, Levi said that the new reality in the Middle East would necessitate a redeployment on Israel's part; then the entire world would realize that the main issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict is not the Palestinian problem, but rather the need for peace between Israel and the Arab countries.

Levi on Peace Prospects, Baker-'Aziz Meeting

TA0701171691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The United States believes that Saddam Husayn is not receiving all the information from his security forces on the force facing him, Foreign Minister David Levi said today. An attempt will be made at the Geneva meeting to make all the facts about the strength of the international force facing him clear to Saddam. The foreign minister was the guest of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Dov Gilhar reports from there:

Members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee are also wondering whether there will be a war on 15 January. Foreign Minister David Levi, who was the committee's guest today, raised another question: Does Saddam realize the might of the force facing him? Levi said there are those in Washington who believe that Saddam's security services are holding information back from him on the military might of the international force. Levi said there are those who believe that once Saddam realizes what he is up against he will change his position. That is one of the reasons for Wednesday's Geneva meeting, the foreign minister hinted.

[Begin Levi recording] There are people in several places in the world, including Washington, who believe that. One of the reasons for the initiative to hold the Geneva meeting is to make it quite clear to Saddam that he has no chance. We will learn about his real intentions after Wednesday's meeting. [end recording]

It is possible that after he hears the facts from Baker Tariq 'Aziz will want to transmit them to Saddam, Levi told the Knesset members. Nobody knows what Saddam will do with the information. It is possible that after he is told the facts he will retreat from his steadfastness and his positions, the foreign minister said, basing this position on expert opinion. Saddam might then search for somebody in Europe or the United States to encourage him to avoid a military operation, the foreign minister said.

The committee members were divided on whether there would be a war and if it happens how to react. Yehoshu'a Saguy [Likud] said that he regrets that there will be no war. Yitzhaq Rabin: If we are attacked before a war breaks out, we must react with our full might, but if we are attacked while war is in progress Israel's response must be restrained and balanced. On that point, Rabin agrees with Yosi Sarid [Citizens Rights Movement], who believes that it is the Americans who should react to an

Iraqi provocation against us. Gad Ya'aqobi [Alignment] calls for a balanced response to Iraq. Ya'ir Tzaban [MAPAM] believes that the low-profile policy should continue even if war breaks out. The foreign minister was asked whether there would be a war or not.

[Begin Levi recording] There are those who claim Saddam is saying: What will be, will be, as long as he is viewed as a hero of the Arab world. I have already said that I can only give a single evaluation: He loves himself more than he loves Kuwait or any achievement, and he will act at the last minute according to whatever is good for him personally. That is my evaluation. [end recording]

Ben-Aharon Discusses U.S. Peace Moves

TA0801064091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Hayim Zissowitz and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] And a good morning to our political correspondent Arye Golan. Before we turn to you, Mr. Ben-Aharon, Arye Golan will fill us in on the details of last night's telephone conversation between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and President George Bush. What was said during the conversation?

[Golan] Yes. It was Mr. Shamir who called the President. He wanted to express his support for Mr. Bush's policy prior to the fateful meeting in Geneva between Secretary of State Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. Shamir wished Bush success in his efforts, and President Bush told the prime minister that he was determined to carry out his policy in order to achieve the U.S. goals. The President, we were told by sources in the prime minister's office, lavishly praised Israel for its position throughout the Gulf crisis. This is all that is known at this time about the phone conversation, and the two men undoubtedly discussed other matters.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Ben-Aharon, did this conversation take place against the background of a certain Israeli concern about some kind of political compromise in which Israel would be asked to pay a price?

[Ben-Aharon] No. There was no such background, and we have not reached that stage. This does not mean that we will not face dangers and challenges further down the road. What is clear to us, and also to those who handle the contacts with the U.S. administration, is that the administration at this stage is determined not to allow any linkage [preceding word in English] between the resolution of the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Zissowitz] But even if there is no formal linkage [preceding word in English], Mr. Ben-Aharon, both the prime minister and the foreign minister have estimated that immediately after the crisis is resolved, there will be efforts to achieve what is called a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In other words, they will demand that we withdraw from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The question is: How is Israel preparing itself for this moment, which appears to be inevitable?

[Ben-Aharon] We do not fear any appeals for us to renew what is known as the peace process. After all, it was the Israeli Government that came out with the peace initiative way back in May 1989. We have nothing to fear. There is some room for concern regarding the possibility that certain elements, such as the European states, may try to inveigle and persuade the United States to already promise Iraq something at this stage with the intention of paying the bill after the Gulf crisis is resolved.

[Golan] Radio Monte Carlo also claimed that Secretary of State Baker is bringing a message from President Bush that the United States in essence accepts an international conference.

[Ben-Aharon] I would suggest that we completely ignore this report. We have had bad experiences with Radio Monte Carlo, especially with their correspondent in Egypt, who fabricates news. Therefore, I would sweep the entire report off the table. Nevertheless, I repeat that there is cause for concern and we must remain firm and steadfast in our position that the State of Israel will not attend an international conference. We are ready to conduct negotations with the Arab countries and with the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, on the basis of the peace initiative. This initiative is viable and fair, as the prime minister and the foreign minister have already pointed out.

[Zissowitz] As for the readiness to conduct negotiations, would you say that the cessation of the state of war between Israel and the Arab countries no longer constitutes, or should no longer constitute, a precondition to the launching of negotiation, as was apparently suggested by Foreign Minister Levi?

[Ben-Aharon] Today there is much greater readiness in the United States regarding the need to address the problem of relations and the cessation of war between Israel and the Arab states than one or two years ago. At that time, as we all recall, there was an almost exclusive focus on what is known as the Palestinian issue, and the West accepted the version they were sold by the Arab countries that the issue of relations between Israel and the Arab countries could not be touched until after the Palestinian problem was resolved. This, of course, was something we could not accept, because it was impossible for us to reach any kind of agreement as long as the more dangerous ring of Arab countries outside our borders and their armies remained in a state of war with Israel. There has been some progress, and I think we can look forward to the next stage with confidence that we can make some progress through negotiations.

[Zissowitz] Thank you, Mr. Ben-Aharon, and thank you, Mr. Golan.

Senior Officer Views Civil Defense Preparations

TA0801093691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Anyone following all the developments, declarations, and preparations realizes that the probability of war breaking out in the Gulf is very real. According to a senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer, a purely military analysis which does not take political considerations into account would indicate that it is unlikely that in the event of a military confrontation between Iraq and the international coalition, Saddam Husayn would seek to open another front and thus find himself facing another enemy and on the receiving end of all Israel can throw at him. The probability of a chemical strike at the Israeli rear is even smaller, the senior officer pointed out, adding that today the home front is much better prepared to absorb an attack than before last August. He said that widespread activity has been enacted in this field, including stocking up on equipment, a large-scale information campaign, and intensive training exercises, in schools as well. The Army commands have held refresher courses on combat strategies. The various auxiliary organizations, such as the Israel Police, the Magen David Adom first aid service, and the Fire Department, have taken part in this training. They all speak the same lingo, in the words of the senior officer; they all received equipment and training.

In response to a question, the source asserted that so far there has been no change in the procedures to be followed should sirens be sounded; the public should act in accordance with the familiar sirens. [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 8 January in a related report by Avi Bnayahu on pages 1 and 4 adds that "the IDF has decided not to carry out a practice sounding of the wail designed for use in the event of a chemical attack."] If the level of emergency rises—and so far this has not been the case—there will be a special broadcast explaining the differences between the various sirens. Instructions and training will also be given at that time.

Everything is ready. The emergency message system is prepared, and the service broadcasts are already at the relay stations with speeded up broadcast procedures and precise explanations. At this stage, the senior officer reiterated, we are not launching any information campaign, but things may change in the future according to ongoing reassessments of the situation.

The source said that the bomb shelters have also been prepared, with the school shelters perhaps being in a better state of preparedness than other sectors. At any rate, in the event of an early warning, we will try to see to it that the children remain at home.

Police Chiefs on War Preparations, Chemical Attack

TA0601180891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Tonight the police minister and commissioner and the Prison Service commissioner discussed special preparations for a state of war and for the possibility of a chemical attack on various parts of Israel. The issues on the agenda included the distribution of responsibility between the Army and the police, communication with civilians, and preparatory organization in prisons. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports from the studio:

In the police minister's opinion, there is a likelihood of a hitherto unknown type of war, which necessitates unusual preparations and organization, a different deployment of troops, and the use of special methods and means.

Minister Roni Milo held a meeting tonight, which was attended by the police commissioner, the Operations Branch chief, and the Prison Service chief. The participants discussed various tasks to be carried out by the police in anticipation of war or a chemical attack in various parts of the country.

The leading principle in those preparations is the deployment of as many troops as possible throughout the entire country. Special emphasis was put on methods of communication between the police and civilians and on possible channels of information.

As for the distribution of responsibility between the Army and the police, the participants decided that in the initial stages the police will be responsible for the civilian home front; at a later stage, this responsibility will be turned over to the Army.

The officers discussed different aspects of a state of emergency in jails, with an emphasis on security prisons.

The police minister's bureau stressed that the entire issue is now Minister Milo's top priority. Already last week the police headquarters addressed the issue at a marathon discussion by senior officers. On Wednesday, a similar discussion will be held by the commanders of all police stations, as well as by Border Police commanders.

Gas Masks To Be Distributed in Rural Areas

TA0701132991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1319 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Gas masks will be distributed very soon in rural settlements. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a decision on this was adopted today in a meeting at the defense minister's office, in response to public pressure and appeals to the courts. Approximately one million masks are involved, and their distribution should last a period of one or two days in every settlement. No decision has been made yet about distributing gas masks in the territories.

No Issue Date for Territories

TA0801082591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources told us that there are enough gas masks for all the residents of Israel. The sources stressed that they expect the recipients, the local authorities, and the police to cooperate in an adult, serious, and responsible manner. The defense minister's bureau yesterday decided on a comprehensive distribution of gas masks to the entire rural sector; however, in the evening, the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee called for a gradual distribution. As a result, in the first stage, only residents of the rural sector in northern and central Israel will receive gas masks, except for the residents of Judaea and Samaria. During the second stage, the date for which has still not been fixed, the residents of Judaea and Samaria and the rural sector in southern Israel will get their NBC [nuclear-biological-chemical] protection kits.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 8 January in a related report by the military correspondent on page 1 adds that "Jewish residents of Judaea and Samaria will not receive gas masks for the time being. The Defense Ministry made this decision yesterday. The reason for the decision: There are not enough masks for the Arab residents of the territories; therefore, masks will not be distributed to the Jewish residents either. The Jewish settlements in the territories expressed their anger over the decision yesterday, claiming discrimination."]

There are 180,000 gas masks designated for the residents of the territories. These were purchased overseas. Defense Minister Moshe Arens has endorsed the implementation of a plan at a cost of millions of shekels to manufacture gas masks for the residents of the territories. The factory has already begun manufacturing the masks. The residents of the territories are tied together with the rural sector in the distribution plans, and it was therefore decided not to distribute gas masks to all Jews in the rural sector at this stage.

The decision regarding distribution to the rural sector is not directly linked to events in the Gulf, we were told by a senior military source. He stressed, however, that he would not say that the two issues were totally unrelated. At any rate, he said, we have the capability to carry out a rapid emergency distribution, and we have not done this. Announcements to those eligible for gas masks were already sent on 6 January, and the distribution process will commence Sunday and last throughout the week. The kits are already stocked in the settlements or the kibbutzim, and according to estimates, distribution in some places will take only a few hours.

The new immigrants have already received instructions at the absorption centers, and they can receive gas masks after presenting an identification card and filling out a form. There will be no distribution of special gas masks for men with beards due to budgetary constraints. The masks with pump filters will not be produced for bearded men, and whoever wants to don his mask will have to shave off his beard.

Until now, 3.5 million gas masks have been distributed, and over 90 percent of the urban sector have received them. The IDF is currently completing distribution in the urban sector.

UN Personnel To Be Evacuated From Middle East

TA0701131191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The United Nations has decided to evacuate all its officers and soldiers from Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon for fear of a war in the region. Our correspondent has been told by UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters in south Lebanon that UN officers are not obligated to leave but that it has been suggested that nonessential personnel get out of the region. On Thursday, chartered planes will evacuate UN personnel dependents from Ben-Gurion Airport to Cyprus, from which they will fly to their respective countries.

Saddam Address Directed at Europeans

TA0701112991 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Jan 91 p A10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Saddam's 'Tower of Babel'"]

[Text] The losses Israel has suffered due to the Kuwaiti crisis are estimated at $500 million. The damage was caused by oil price hikes, the drop in incoming tourism, foreign insurance price hikes, and the drop in foreign investments in Israel. This figure does not include the special outlay for defensive alert in view of Saddam Husayn's threats.

Saddam continues to brandish threats in order to hurt Israel both politically and economically. Although President Mubarak has explained that Saddam is incapable of hurting Israel and therefore will not launch a war against it, that knowledge has not prevented Saddam from exploiting his threats of war to the maximum. He was encouraged by reports he received from the EC foreign ministers meeting. The European countries—whose factories and companies helped him create chemical and biological weapons and advance on the nuclear capability track—tried to save Saddam's honor by creating a linkage between the withdrawal from Kuwait and the solution of the Palestinian problem. They failed to reach a consensus on their proposal at the EC conference. Nevertheless, Saddam knows that these countries are trying to salvage the billions of dollars Iraq owes them and hope that Iraq's becoming wealthier through the Kuwaiti oil will increase their chances of conquering the Iraqi market with their products.

In fact, Saddam is addressing the industrial tycoons in Europe. He is signaling to them that Israel is an obstacle

to the development of their businesses in Iraq. He is asking them not to leave him at the mercy of the United States, which is an Israeli ally, and alleges that this is the only reason Bush opposes the linkage between the Kuwaiti and Palestinian problems.

This is one of the motives for the escalation of Saddam's threats against Israel.

The European countries, which have shown understanding for Saddam's claims about the linkage and tried to offer a compromise formula in anticipation of Tariq 'Aziz's meeting with James Baker, have encouraged Saddam. They have confirmed his belief that as someone who is free of the pressure of public opinion, he will always win an open confrontation with a democratic regime, where a free public debate is held even on deciding between war and peace.

The reports he received from the EC talks encouraged him to continue the line of threats against Israel to strengthen the claims of his suitors that there is a direct link between the Palestinian and the Kuwaiti problem. That is why Saddam was not satisfied with the EC's Venice formula about self-determination for the Palestinians, but spoke of the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, and Palestine. He did not call for an international conference—the idee fixe many countries have been toying with—but incited for war for the liberation of Palestine. He did so in order to make the various mediators work hard to persuade him to "settle" for less, just as he is making them work hard to make sure his foreign minister meets with EC representatives. His arrogance has reached such a degree that he is even making the Europeans humiliate themselves and pay for a meeting with the Iraqi foreign minister.

After failing to drive a wedge between Washington and Moscow, he is now trying to create a conflict between the United States and Europe. In so doing, he is trying to prevent the U.S. military action of which he is afraid. Whenever he finds himself on the verge of war, he pulls another trick out of his hat, aiming to further delay the resolution of the Kuwaiti crisis. He does not want the conflict settled; rather, he wants to stay in the 19th province of Iraq, namely Kuwait. To achieve this, he is trying to buy time. After Bush gave up on his 3 January deadline for a meeting, he is preparing another surprise for 15 January. With the passage of time, the U.S. Army is not only digging in in the desert, but is also sinking in its sands. Saddam is banking on the assumption that the Americans will get tired of this.

Recently, Saddam encouraged 'Arafat, who got scared by the U.S. success in forming an anti-Iraqi coalition, by saying that he who does not rule Babel will not be able to rule the world, and the United States will not rule Babel. Saddam is building a Tower of Babel with which to confront Bush. In his speech yesterday, he did not only try to scare the Europeans, but also tried to incite the Palestinians to escalate their terror activities. He has linked his Army's operations with that of the Judaea and Samaria stone throwers, with the hidden intention of the stones serving as a constant harassment on the international arena and to divert UN attention from the Kuwaiti issue to discussions about Gaza.

In invading Kuwait, Saddam deprived hundreds of thousands of Palestinians of their income, and in pushing the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria to escalate their terror activity, he might bring a disaster down on them. The paradise he has promised them if they are killed in war is overcrowded. He has already sent a million Iraqi and Iranian Muslims there after he and Khomeyni promised them a ticket to paradise.

Saddam is deluding himself if he thinks that he can hit Israel's rear through the use of the intifadah forces and that Israel has no means to foil this scheme.

Latest Gaza Proposal Called 'Cosmetic' Measure

TA0401162591 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Jan 91 p 7

[Editorial: "Initiatives Divorced From Reality!"]

[Text] There have been more ideas, initiatives, and proposals put forward for a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in general, and the Palestinian problem in particular, than for any dispute or problem during this century. We can say, therefore, that the last thing our region needs is a new initiative or proposal, especially since a settlement compatible with the resolutions of international legitimacy now enjoys the support of the great majority of all countries.

The most recent initiative proposed by some Labor Party leaders is based on the concept of establishing a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip and granting autonomy to the West Bank, while retaining a unified Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.

In the face of such proposals we say that the desired political settlement means addressing the Palestinian problem in all its aspects and extricating the region and its peoples from the cycle of violence and counter-violence. The basis of such a settlement must be an acknowledgment of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, the implementation of Security Council resolutions regarding the inadmissibility of occupying the lands of others by force, and the right of all the region's states to live in peace.

Putting forward initiatives that call for separating the West Bank from the Gaza Strip falls within the context of coping with the Israeli impasse, rather than the context of a lasting, balanced, and comprehensive peace. The time has come to close the Arab-Israeli file on the basis of pragmatism, wisdom, and farsightedness.

The world has realized the real dangers stemming from the inability to solve the Palestinian problem as well as from continuing the conflict in the region. The world has reiterated that the core of this conflict is represented in

the Palestinian problem and that any attempt to divide this problem or separate it from the resolutions of international legitimacy will make it more complex and intricate.

The cold war is over and the walls between East and West have collapsed. The era of polarization, of the arms race, and of denying the rights of others has ended. Mankind has entered a new path. The Middle East cannot be the exception. Anyone who believes that he can maintain the status quo or circumvent international legitimacy has to reassess his calculations. Tomorrow's world has adopted as its main pillars political and economic pragmatism and the right of nations to self-determination.

Anyone trying to break the deadlock pertaining to the launching of a peace process in the region must realize that success requires radical acts, not mere cosmetic measures.

Gaza Commander Says Rules for Firing Unchanged

TA0501173691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES has published an article about the incidents of the last few days in the Gaza Strip, in which REUTERS is quoted using new terminology regarding the activity of the Israeli security forces. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reported that, according to REUTERS, the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip claim that the deaths of Arab residents there over recent days were not caused by Israeli Army gunfire at crowds of people, but were rather the result of initiated manhunts after Palestinians.

However, Brigadier General Shmu'el Zucker, the commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip, told our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that there has been no change in regulations for opening fire. The five Palestinians killed this past week in the Gaza Strip were masked men and were killed during IDF initiated operations after endangering the lives of the soldiers. The dead were masked men who intended to harm local residents or the IDF, Zucker pointed out.

Moda'i Hospitalized With Pneumonia

TA0801053691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i has been hospitalized with pneumonia. He was taken by ambulance from the Knesset to Tel Hashomer Hospital yesterday.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 8 January carries a related report by Dalya Mazori on page A1, adding that Moda'i "will be released soon."]

Bush Liable for 'Potential Failure' of Talks

JN0701151991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jan 91 p 1, 13

[Editorial: "American Logic That Lacks Wisdom"]

[Text] Throughout the successive stages of the erupting Gulf crisis, U.S. President George Bush has never once stopped beating the drums of war and issuing flagrant war threats alongside a flood of military troops and naval fleets in a scene that reminds many who are following these events of the U.S. cowboy who loses the virtue of wisdom whenever he has too much power at his disposal.

The speech delivered by President Bush on the eve of James Baker's departure to Geneva for the meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz was one of the clearest examples of that excessively belligerent manner of thinking, which holds deep contempt for the logic of justice, fairness, and honorable peace—especially since the 'Aziz-Baker meeting represents a unique, historic opportunity for solving the crisis. The U.S. President should not have squandered the chances for success in this opportunity with that political tone, which reveals more elements of weakness than of strength.

It seems that President Bush was trying prematurely, through that speech broadcast the day before yesterday, to spike the agreed-upon Geneva meeting and shatter any hopes pinned on it. Perhaps he was even aiming to possibly generate Iraqi political reactions, which he hoped would expose Iraq as the rigid side rejecting all available possibilities for negotiation and dialogue with the United States.

Therefore, we see the latest declared Iraqi stand regarding the future of Kuwait as a natural reaction to these U.S. attempts aiming to dictate preconditions on the Geneva dialogue, and then to extract a document of capitulation from Iraq during that meeting, which seems to displease the warmongers in the United States, led by George Bush and the Israeli and Zionist pressure groups.

In view of all this, we hold U.S. President George Bush responsible for the potential failure of the 'Aziz-Baker meeting. We also hold him personally responsible for edging the Gulf crisis toward an abyss with much determination. This has made the war option the most likely possibility. The fate of the people of this region is at the mercy of the various dangers of that kind of power, which lacks wisdom and political courage—something President Bush has no notion of.

Comprehensive Dialogue Required in Geneva Talks

JN0801095891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jan 91 p 1, 15

[Editorial: "American Stubborness and Bush's Premeditated War Decision"]

[Text] All U.S. moves on the European and Arab arenas and all statements by officials at the White House, Pentagon, and State Department indicate very clearly that President Bush has, since the very beginning, been premeditating a decision to explode the war and wage indiscriminate aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation.

President Bush insists on making the Geneva meeting nothing more than an occasion to give Iraq the final warning to withdraw from Kuwait.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker affirms that the Geneva meeting will be confined to delivering Bush's message which contains the U.S. warning to Mr. Tariq 'Aziz and that he will not discuss any other issue.

The U.S. secretary of defense affirms the capability of the unholy alliance in the Gulf to end the war in days and destroy the Iraqi force.

In addition, Bush's Administration fully rejects holding an international conference to discuss any of the region's issues.

The Zionist authorities announced the mobilization and extreme state of alert among their forces ranks.

All Bush has left to do is extract a decision from Congress to explode the war.

Whether Bush insists on the war option or on reviewing his accounts, in return, Iraq, along with the Arab nation, is in a state of mobilization and alert and is ready for the great battle which will not stop at Iraq's borders.

In the same way, President Saddam Husayn affirmed that the mother of battles has been planned in such a way as to be comprehensive in its goals and means; that the battle will not be on Iraq's territory alone, but will reflect on the mind and heart of every believer and honorable person in all corners of the Arab world, east and west; and that the entire globe will be turned into a battle arena.

This is the clear and frank Iraqi response to the U.S. threats and to any decision that Bush might be calculating to explode the war.

We believe that if President Bush does not respond to the peace calls emerging from various places throughout the world, and if he does not resort to using logic and giving the political option the opportunity it deserves, he would be making a decision to become involved in a comprehensive war which will incur the gravest environmental, economic, and cultural losses and damage for the whole of humanity. Victory, in any case, will not be on the side of the invaders and aggressors.

Proceeding from this, one can say that the Iraqi-U.S. Geneva meeting must involve a real and comprehensive political dialogue out of concern for rendering it successful and to achieve a solution to the Gulf crisis and all issues of the nation, foremost of which is the Palestine question. The results will undoubtedly be disappointing for Bush's hopes and for his allies.

UN's de Marco Stresses Need for Peace Conference

JN0701205091 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] United Nation's General Assembly President Guido de Marco said at a press conference in Amman today all parties to the Middle East crisis are in agreement on the need to convene an international peace conference—with the exception of Israel. He said pressure should be exerted on Israel to agree to the conference.

[Begin recording] [De Marco] But, the United Nations has already expressed itself in most emphatic terms. There should be no demographic change in the occupied territories. And, it is a mistake, and I also said this to Israeli leaders whom I met, to create further problems for people who may have been very unfortunate in the historical circumstances—create further problems for them in the future. It's unfair on the Palestinian people; it is unfair on the Jewish settlers themselves; it's unfair on the international community. I don't see the wisdom of creating even more problems than there exist in this region, and which ultimately its people who would be suffering. I think that UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] is in need of further assistance. It deserves further assistance. All states—not only the donors that are prominent—but also many states in this region can contribute further towards UNRWA. And UNRWA, with its responsibilities as a result of intifadah, of looking into the human rights violations which happen as far as Palestinian refugees are concerned, has this great responsibility to continue to be at the service of humanity. What I know and as I had been informed, that some Soviet Jews are being settled over there. What is obvious to any person who goes over to the occupied territories are the Jewish settlements over there. And these Jewish settlements, whether they be Soviet Jews or non-Soviet Jews, they are settlements encircling areas which are very Arab—in violation of the resolutions of the United Nations that there should be no demographic changes, and therefore, creating or rather investing for problems in the future. Now all except Israel have accepted the principle of an international conference for the Middle East. What we have to do now is press the matter on. See to it that it becomes a reality. Bring all the peoples in this region and all those mentioned in the General Assembly resolution towards being very active. I think that peace is brought to this region, many other problems can also be solved. [end recording]

Praises King, Departs

JN0701203491 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Guido de Marco, president of the current UN General Assembly session and Maltese foreign minister, has expressed his appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf and Middle East crises. He noted this in a statement before leaving Amman today at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan. [passage omitted]

Jordan Supplying U.S. With Iraqi Intelligence

NC0601121591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI magazine expects a crisis between Iraq and Jordan which may destroy relations between the two countries in view of a scandal involving the Jordanian intelligence apparatus.

According to the magazine, elements in the Jordanian intelligence apparatus have furnished the Americans with accurate information on sensitive military targets in Iraq. The paper said Iraq learned about the scandal through a report from an East European country with which it maintains ties of security cooperation.

Evacuee Committee Urges Border With Iraq Closed

JN0701180491 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 7 Jan (PETRA)—Salamah Hammad, secretary general of the Ministry of Interior and chairman of the relief committee for the evacuees, has stated that the committee prepared a report for the government demanding the closure of the borders with Iraq to evacuees if the committee does not receive financial and material assistance from the United Nations, its organizations, and the international community.

In a statement to PETRA, he added that more evacuees will enter Jordan from Iraq within the next few days in light of political developments resulting from the scheduled meeting between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his U.S. counterpart the day after tomorrow, Wednesday. He pointed out that if no progress is made during the meeting, Jordan will be compelled to receive large numbers of evacuees from across its borders with Iraq, where there are still approximately 2 million foreigners.

Hammad explained that the committee prepared a plan two months ago in cooperation with the United Nations, its organizations, and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, personal representative of the UN secretary general for humanitarian affairs. The plan, he said, shows requirements for accommodating evacuees entering Jordan. However, until now, there has been no response to this plan and no assistance has been received for this purpose, he added.

He also said that what Jordan has experienced from the beginning of the crisis until now is something like a nightmare. During that period, more than one and one-half million evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq have passed through Jordan, including approximately about 865,000 evacuees, who stayed in camps set up by the committee in various parts of the Kingdom.

He affirmed that the international community has clearly failed to cope with this problem, which was not Jordan's problem alone, but the entire international community's as well.

Concluding, he praised the efforts by all parties concerned in Jordan to help the evacuees.

Airfares To Increase In Light of Gulf Crisis

JN0501175591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jan 91 p 3

[By "a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter"]

[Text] Amman—Airline ticket prices increased by six to nine per cent, depending on the destination, as of Jan. 1, 1991, airline sources said Friday.

The increase in fares follows International Air Transport Association (IATA) recommendations, a Royal Jordanian (RJ) official told the Jordan Times. "IATA took the decision as a result of the increase in oil and insurance prices resulting from the Gulf crisis," said the official.

Ticket for Arab destinations will increase by six per cent; eight per cent is the increase for destinations in Europe and the Far East and nine per cent increase to North American cities. The increase affecting North American destinations will take effect Jan. 15.

According to the official, RJ tickets "do not carry the additional $50 to $100 insurance on each ticket levied by other carriers."

"The airline industry is going through a difficult period caused by a combination of adverse economic trends, the Gulf crisis and continuing structural changes in the industry itself," IATA Director General Dr. Gunter Eser said last month.

Since the Gulf crisis erupted over five months ago, five major airline companies have already taken decisions to suspend their flights to Jordan because "it is no longer profitable under the present circumstances," according to one European airline official.

Most airlines cited the dramatic rise in fuel prices, high "war risk" insurance, and the decrease in passengers as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Aviation Official Denies Airports Closure 10 Jan

JN0701171491 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1643 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 7 Jan (PETRA)—A responsible source in the Civil Aviation Authority has stated that there is no truth to the rumors that Jordanian airports will close on 10 January.

Analyst Denies Former Minister 'Pro-American'

JN0601092691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jan 91 p 3

["News Analysis" By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Mariam M. Shahin: "Jordan's Foreign Policy Unlikely To Change With Cabinet Reshuffle"]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's foreign policy is unlikely to undergo a fundamental change with the departure last week of Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and his replacement with Tahir al-Masri, but the move is expected to cultivate a homegrown diplomatic activity more attuned to the thinking of Parliament's Lower House, according to observers and analysts.

Al-Masri had not only been chairman of the House's Foreign Relations Committee for the past 12 months. He has also been an active deputy and a prominent member of one of the main groupings in the chamber, the National Bloc.

While much of the foreign press was busy last week reading a "more pro-Iraq" stand in the Cabinet reshuffle in which al-Masri took over from al-Qasim, Jordanian analysts disagreed with this point of view. "Insofar as Jordan's policy on the Gulf crisis is concerned, there will be no change," said one political observer close to the government. "Jordan's policy has all along been to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis, and based on this I don't think Mr. al-Masri is less committed to this approach than Mr. al-Qasim has been." he added.

Some comments and analysis in the foreign media argued that the change in the Foreign Ministry was significant because "al-Qasim had close relations with the Gulf countries and was somewhat 'pro- American'." Jordanians meanwhile saw things differently.

"The new foreign minister has a mandate from the people and from the government, therefore the Parliament will perceive him in a different light," said one political observer right after the Cabinet reshuffle was anounced last Tuesday.

While there was unanimous agreement by observers and political analysts that the change in the Cabinet post marked no significant change in Jordan's foreign policy, almost all agreed that the accusation by some House members that al-Qasim was too "pro-American" had more to do with his image among those deputies than anything else.

During his last days in office al-Qasim made some of the strongest anti-American statement made by a Jordanian official," noted one observer, who did not want to be identified.

The observer was referring to statements al-Qasim made late last month in which he commented on Security Council Resolution 681.

"While it is true that al-Qasim's position (on the resolution) largely reflected the government's stand, it did not make him seem 'pro-American' in any way," the observer said.

A political analyst said he believed that if there was any change it would be in the foreign minister's perceived image on the domestic front and not on the foreign front.

Al-Masri is a former minister of state for the occupied territories and had also served as foreign minister in Zayd al-Rifa'i government between 1985 and 1988. He served as Jordan's ambassador to Spain, France and the United Kingdom before 1984 when he was appointed foreign minister in the Ahmad 'Ubaydat government for the first time.

Observers say al-Masri is expected to have a better working relationship with the Lower House.

"Because he knows the deputies well, his relationship with the House as foreign minister will be smoother than al-Qasim," is how one member of the Lower House put it.

Observers believe that al-Masri also has a special role to play in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. "al-Masri has a lot of support from centrist Palestinians and Jordanians and his Palestinian background makes him a key player in this arena," said no political analyst. Jordan-PLO relations have witnessed steady improvement since Jordan held its first parliamentary elections in 22 years in November 1988.

As a deputy of Amman's third district al-Masri has openly spoken out about his position on the Gulf crisis, supporting Jordan's official "Arab solution" stand in the Foreign Relations Committee's meetings and in regular Lower House sessions.

Observers say al-Masri had some reservations about the inclusion of the Muslim Brotherhood in the government. But "despite his apprehensions about the Brotherhood's participation in the cabinet, his presence in the first government to include Muslim brotherhood members is seen as necessary as having an experienced and known figure as foreign minister in this time of regional crisis," one analyst said.

Fatah's Founding Marked; Armed Struggle Stressed

JN0401212991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Jan 90 pp 16, 14

[Bu 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] The united Jordanian-Palestinian people have taken up the invitation to celebrate "the Palestinian national day", the 26th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian revolution unleashed by the Palestinian National Liberation Movement [Fatah]. The festival was held last evening in the international automobile exhibition building on the airport road and was organized by the popular committee set up to celebrate this major event.

More than 20,000 citizens chanted long life to the Palestine revolution and the valiant intifadah, stressing the need to liberate entire Palestine from the sea to the river, through the blood of martyrs and all sacrifices. [passage omitted].

House of Representatives Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat said that Jordan, which is the nearest spot to Palestine, will be the sword of challenge against the Zionist injustice, oppression, and treacherous aggression. [passage omitted]

Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad, said at the festival that the unity between Jordan and Palestine will be announced from Jerusalem at the first moment of liberation and the implementation of the Palestinian independence declaration. [passage omitted]

Abu Iyad said Iraq now represents the conscience of our Arab and Islamic nation. It will not be left alone; Palestine, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, and all Arabs and Muslims support it until it wins victory over the U.S. and Western forces. He stressed that the people of Egypt and Syria will support Iraq if fighting breaks out.

Abu-Iyad underscored the liberation of all Palestine and the refusal to sell out any Palestinian village or city. The Palestinian revolution will not turn its back on 30,000 martyrs who fell for the sake of liberating all Palestinian soil, he said.

There will be no retreat from armed struggle, Abu-Iyad said, adding that time is not in favor of the Zionist enemy. He condemned frightened and cowardly people and called on all those who left Fatah to return. He also called on all forces, including the Islamic forces, to join the PLO because the enemy does not discriminate between one Muslim and another, a Muslim and a Christian, and one faction and another. [passage omitted]

Aqwaf Minister Says No Decision on Pilgrimage

JN0601094191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
6 Jan 91 p 1

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Excerpt] Amman—His Eminence Shaykh Dr. Ibrahim Zayd al- Kilani, minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs, told AL-DUSTUR yesterday that no decision has so far been taken with regard to pilgrimage this year. He said: We are studying all aspects of the issues, and we are preparing ourselves. We will take our time before announcing our decision while waiting for the situation to become clear during the coming two weeks, he added. The minister gave directions to form a committee to supervise the pilgrimage season.

Replying to a question on whether he will participate in the Islamic conference in Baghdad on 9 January, he said: Yes, I will participate in this Islamic meeting in which a number of awqaf ministers of Islamic states will participate, in addition to some scientists and Islamic scholars. [passage omitted]

Belgian Hostages Released, May Be in Libya

NC0801095291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0948 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Walid Khalid, member of Fatah-The Revolutionary Council, announced today that the four Belgian hostages held by the organization have been released. He added that the hostages were moved during the night to a friendly country in preparation for exchanging them for Nasir Sa'id who is detained in Belgium.

AFP has cited a security source as saying that the hostages may have been moved to Libya.

Bush Message to Prime Minister Seen as Supportive

NC0801070491 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpt] People who visited Prime Minister 'Umar Karami yesterday quoted him as saying that the message he received from U.S. President George Bush is important and is considered a prominent development and a show of support for the government in its march toward implementing the al-Ta'if accord. Karami noted that the message had come to refute all rumors and malicious attempts to depict the United States as being opposed to the current steps being taken in Lebanon.

Prime Minister Karami said that all parties must rise above self- interest for the sake of the country's supreme interest, especially at a time when the region is passing through very difficult circumstances. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Against Request for U.S. Assistance

NC0401193091 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has strongly criticized the new Lebanese Government's wish to obtain assistance from the United States in resolving its political probelms.

In his two Friday sermons in Beirut's Southern Suburb today, he said that all of Lebanon's problems can in some way be attributed to the U.S. policy on Lebanon and asked: How, then, can this country help Lebanon overcome its domestic problems? He noted that the United States, to serve its own interests, has multiplied Lebanon's problems and that all the region's peoples cannot rely on it in any way.

UN's Goulding Arrives, Meets With al-Hirawi

NC0801110491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has been meeting with Assistant UN Secretary General Marrack Goulding since 1115 today. Goulding will later meet with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Goulding arrived at Beirut airport this morning and was received by Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mahmud Matar representing the defense minister and the Army commander, the commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], and a number of Lebanese and UNIFIL officers.

Goulding said on arrival that he will discuss the UNIFIL's future with Lebanese officials. He is scheduled to go to the south tomorrow to inspect the UNIFIL positions there.

Army Denies Report on Clash With Syrians

NC0401172291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate has issued the following statement: A news agency has carried a report saying that a clash occurred between Lebanese and Syrian troops in al-Ramlah al- Bayda' this morning. The Army Command denies this report and asks all news media not to publish any reports connected with the military establishment without first consulting the responsible sources there.

Middle East Airlines Suspends Flights to Gulf

NC0701183691 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Salim Salam, chairman of the board of directors of the Middle East Airlines Company, has announced that in view of the increase in the insurance premiums on aircraft flying to the Gulf, the Middle East Airline Company has decided to suspend its jumbo jet flights to the Gulf temporarily. The company has also decided not to allow any aircraft to spend the night in the Gulf states but to return to Beirut immediately from its destination.

Al-Hirawi, Ministers Hold Meeting 7 Jan

NC0701192591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] A meeting was held at the presidential office this evening attended by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Minister of State Nabih Birri, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas.

Minister Birri said after the meeting that the delay in deploying the army to Iqlim al-Tuffah was due to the change in government. He said that the deployment is still supposed to take place.

Minister al-Murr said that his contacts regarding the government situation were based on personal initiative. He said that there have been no negative results, and the proof is that there were no resignations from the government. He explained that the contacts are continuing. He expressed the hope that all the ministers will participate in the government.

Talas Inspects Gulf Forces, Discusses 'Crime'

JN0701202791 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpts] At the directive of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, made an inspection visit to our forces deployed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Gen. Talas was accompanied by General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, and a number of senior officers of the General Command. [passage omitted]

Afterward, Gen. Talas and those accompanying him visited His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi defense minister, who paid tribute to President al-Asad's stands on the Gulf crisis, and expressed high appreciation for Syria's decision to dispatch a number of its formations to participate in defending the land of Saudi Arabia against any aggression that targets it.

On the second day of the visit, Gen. Talas and those accompanying him visited the areas where our forces are located. Gen. Talas was received by the commander of the Syrian Arab Forces and a number of officers. After shaking hands with those who received him, the guards of honor saluted him. Afterward, he inspected the guards of honor and addressed the fighters who received him with shouts of support for President al-Asad, leader of our glorious march of victory and liberation.

In an impromptu speech, Gen. Talas conveyed to the fighters the greetings of President al-Asad and his wishes for their success in their pan-Arab mission on the land of Saudi Arabia. Gen. Talas went on to say: You heroes are embodying the pan-Arab message of our Army in the Gulf region and translating on the ground the fact that our Army, since its establishment, has been an Army for the Arab nation to defend its objectives, protect its land, safeguard its dignity, oppose aggressors, and make great sacrifices so that the Arab nation will remain dignified, honorable, free, and independent.

Gen. Talas also reviewed the Gulf crisis since its inception, which was started by Saddam Husayn—the man who destroyed the Iraqi Army and people and economic capabilities through an unjust war against the Iranian revolution, shed the blood of innocent people, and undermined an Arab and friendly force, preventing it from turning westward toward our real enemy, Israel. Gen. Talas went on to say: The crime of Saddam has caused many tribulations for the Arab nation—the crime that tore up Arab ranks, brought massive foreign armies into the region, and galvanized the world against Iraq and the Arab people. [passage omitted]

Al-Ahmar Addresses Security Forces on Crisis

JN0601154591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Damascus—The council of the party's internal security forces branch held its annual meeting this morning. Present were Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Dr. Wahib Tannus, member of the Party's regional command and head of the regional bureaus for students and higher education; Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah; 'Aziz Sulayman, member of the party committee for supervision and inspection; 'Adnan Badr Hasan, secretary of the branch; and members of the branch command.

Comrade al-Ahmar delivered a speech during the meeting in which he conveyed the greetings and love of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the Republic, to the comrades participating in the meeting and the members of the internal security forces. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed the latest Arab and international developments. He stressed the increasing danger of the situation in the Arabian Gulf as a result of Iraq's continuing occupation and annexation of Kuwait, and its lack of response to the Arab and international resolutions which require its immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the latter's legitimate government as the necessary basis for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. He reaffirmed Syria's role and efforts in this direction under President Hafiz al-Asad.

On Lebanon, Comrade al-Ahmar noted the successive and continuous steps taken since terminating the 'Awn rebellion to implement the articles of the national reconciliation accord in order for Lebanon to retrieve its independence, unity, and Arab role. He expressed Syria's continued support for Lebanon's legitimate authority to proceed with its steps to consolidate peace, security, stability, and reconstruction, and to liberate the south from the Israeli enemy's occupation.

Comrade al-Ahmar noted in his speech that the central cause, the Palestine question, is the crux of Syria's policy; it is trying on every level to find the just and comprehensive solution to restore legitimate rights to their owners, especially the right of the Palestinian Arab people to repatriation, self-determination, and their Palestinian state on the soil of their homeland, Palestine.

The assistant secretary general saluted the struggle of our people in the occupied Golan Heights, the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories, and the resistance in southern Lebanon against the Zionist enemy. He said: The course followed by these people is that of the Arab struggle to stress the rights of the Palestinian people and to continue resistance until these rights are recognized, and not to submit to the enemy or give in to its desires.

Comrade al-Ahmar also reviewed international developments and their effects on our Arab nation's causes. He called on the Arabs to end the battles they have been dragged into by some regimes, particularly the Arabian Gulf crisis, by implementing the Arab resolutions, concentrating their interests, rallying their potentials, and restoring their solidarity for the major cause, the Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition, he called for providing the requirements for victory that would end the aggression that threatens the existence, survival, and destiny of the nation, and to retrieve the occupied Arab territories and guarantee our Arab nation's legitimate rights. [passage omitted]

Minister Stresses Unity of Iraqi Opposition

JN0601190791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman received this morning a delegation from the Iraqi opposition's general secretariat office.

During the meeting, the minister noted the importance of the unity of Iraqi opposition factions so they can alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, liberate their will, and rid them of the nightmare of injustice which they are currently living.

The minister also said that words can play an effective and influential role in making the Iraqi people aware of what is happening in Iraq. The minister listened to a review of the general secretariat's future plans and its program and activities to demonstrate its existence, the unity of its ranks, and its determination to fulfill its objectives and aspirations of liberating the will of the Iraqi people, unmasking the false, deluded attempts of the regime against its sons, and shouldering the important responsibility of the media to explain and deepen understanding of what is happening inside Iraq—namely, the suppressive policies there and the dangers encircling it.

Earlier, the Iraqi opposition general secretariat approved its working plan for media activity through its joint working statement to consolidate the unity of the opposition factions and the masses through the activity of the media committee that was formed for this purpose.

Iraq Told To Heed 'International Consensus'

JN0601164291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Of all people, only Iraq's rulers are taking an exceptional and intransigent stand toward all the moves, contacts, and meetings that are taking place to remove the specter of confrontation from the region. Of all people, only Iraq's rulers fan the fires and renew, daily, their intransigent position that rejects international will and emphasizes their occupation of Kuwait and the escalation of the Gulf crisis toward the catastrophe. And, of all people, they alone close their ears and persist in flouting international legitimacy and the calls to spare the region the specter of war and destruction. Every Arab citizen has the right to wonder: Why are the rulers of Iraq intentionally sacrificing that country? Why do they not heed the Arab and international calls and appeals? Why do they intentionally and willfully ignore those calls? Why all this Iraqi intransigence? Do the Iraqi rulers really understand the danger of what they are doing with their own hands, and the danger of the war, which they are pushing the region to the brink of?

These are big questions and serious possibilities, the answers to which the rulers of Iraq are avoiding. They do not pay attention to what the region may face when things are out of control, when hell breaks loose, and when the catastrophe, with its grave consequences and serious results, prevails. Then, will the rulers of Iraq not wonder what have they gained, and whether their occupation of Kuwait was worth all those perils because they will affect, first of all, Iraq itself as a people, Army, resources, energies, future, and entity?

When we warn against this, we realize that there is still a chance—even a small one—for those rulers to retreat and spare the people of Iraq the catastrophe and the destruction they will face. Sorrow will not be useful when the decisive moment arrives and the rulers of Iraq not do anything to avoid it.

But, because there is still a chance, will these rulers wake up and begin logically and rationally to question the course, developments, reactions, and results of the crisis? Will they work to rescue themselves and the region from those expected and probable results?

In light of all the signs that the rulers of Iraq are determined to continue their occupation of Kuwait, it seems natural that—just as they foiled the Arab solution and did not respond to current international moves and contacts—the rulers of Iraq will continue the policy of intransigence and inflexibility and their course that rejects and flouts international legitimacy. Otherwise, what does it mean when the Iraqi president reaffirms—at a time when efforts to rescue Iraq intensify on all Arab and international as well as political and diplomatic levels—that Iraq will keep Kuwait and will not retreat from it because, as he says, it is the 19th governorate? What does it mean when the rulers of Iraq fail, until now, to realize the dimensions and meanings of their adventurous policy which recklessly puts the whole situation at risk? There is only one simple explanation—that is, that the rulers of Iraq are not only rejecting the opportunities offered to them to retreat from this policy, but are also burning all their bridges and banishing every chance of optimism or ray of hope that would spare the region the destruction, the catastrophe, and the confrontation.

Now, since the countdown for the deadline set by the international consensus has begun, the Iraqi leaders are alone responsible for the serious consequences and perils

of their reckless policy and exposed adventure, especially as they know more than anyone else that the key to the real solution—the ending of the blockade imposed by the whole world—and rescuing Iraq can only be achieved by a complete withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy in accordance with Arab and international resolutions.

If the leaders of Iraq are indeed concerned with saving the region and Iraq, they have no alternative but to submit to the international consensus and respond to the supreme Arab interest to prevent the explosion and the confrontation, whose extent no one can foretell. This confrontation will undoubtedly inflict the greatest damage on the Arab nation's cause and objectives to regain its rights and liberate its lands, and will place Iraq in a destructive quake and amid grave consequences and squander the resources of the Iraqi people and Army. Those are the things and consequences which no reasoning can accept or approve of.

The Iraqi leadership should realize this before anyone else. It should understand its meanings and objectives and not throw Iraq, the Arab nation, and the Arab land into this perilous situation. It should, therefore, admit that there is no way out but to end its invasion of Kuwait and accept international legitimacy, the humanitarian norms and charters, and the Arab and international consensus on the need to withdraw from Kuwait—today, not tomorrow.

Paper Says Iraq Stance Leading to 'Catastrophe'

JN0601165191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the state of concern and tension escalating with the approach of the 15 January deadline fixed as a final date by the UN Security Council for implementing its resolution on the use of force to make Iraq withdraw its troops from Kuwait. The newspaper says that maintaining the Iraqi position against all Arab and international resolutions will undoubtedly push the whole region into the unknown.

The paper adds: From the first day of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, Syria has been making efforts to resolve the crisis within an Arab context. Syria has been doing this out of the honest leader Hafiz al-Asad's firm conviction that it is unacceptable to waste Arab resources. Now, regardless of the host of repercussions that have taken place because Iraq insists on its position, which has been rejected on the Arab and international scenes, leader al-Asad has continued to work with some Arab brothers to avert a catastrophe. This means that Arab Syria bases all of its moves on the need to rally Arab resources and capabilities in the right direction; that is, in the direction of confronting the Zionist enemy that is occupying Palestine and other parts of Arab lands. Hence, we, the Arabs, should always remember that this enemy is the main beneficiary of all that has happened and might happen.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: We would like to reaffirm a major point: namely, an Arab who wants to regain usurped rights can never do anything that will serve the nation's enemies. He should implement and show support for Arab and international resolutions calling for a full, complete, and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. As a matter of fact, if it fails to change its position and respond favorably to the Arab and international consensus, which is based on reason and good sense, Iraq will push the Arab nation into the unknown, indeed, into a catastrophe.

Paper Says Iraq Exploiting Palestine Issue

JN0701075491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In the article headlined "The Riyadh Meeting," the newspaper TISHRIN says: As part of continued coordination and consultations among Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, the Riyadh meeting was held among the foreign ministers of these Arab states to affirm an important and prominent fact: namely, whoever adopts a reckless policy and gambles with the fate of Kuwait and the Iraqi people and pushes the region to a destructive war, cannot in any case be trusted with any Arab issue. This means that Iraq's exploitation of the Palestine question in light of its refusal to abide by the international legitimacy and Arab resolutions is merely an act of deception and a condemned stand through which the Iraqi rulers aim only to justify their invasion of Kuwait and their continued occupation of this Arab member state of the United Nations and Arab League.

The paper adds: The Palestine question is an Arab cause and its responsibility is a pan-Arab one. Naturally, the Arabs should condemn this exploitation by the Iraqi rulers through a reckless policy which plunged the region into darkness, caused grave and immense damage to the Palestine question, and led to the deployment of foreign forces on Arab land.

The paper adds: Undoubtedly, the Iraqi rulers' refusal to yield to international legitimacy automatically means a persistence in slaughtering Iraq—people and capabilities. The Iraqi leadership, as indicated by the press statement issued by the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, bears full responsibility for the ensuing dangerous and harmful consequences.

The paper affirms: Despite the beginning of the countdown for the deadline set by the UN Security Council for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, it is definite that Iraq still has a chance to declare an end to its reckless, rejectionist, and intransigent policy, to evade a destructive war, and save Iraq from a catastrophe. This can only

be achieved through abidance by the Arab and international resolutions, and through responding to Arab and international moves, contacts, and meetings aimed at defusing the possible explosion in the region and terminating the Gulf crisis through Iraq's full and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government.

Arabs Called To Save Region From Destruction

JN0601164791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria has always supported the aspirations and ambitions of our Arab nation. It has employed all its potential and resources for the sake of the Palestine question out of its belief in the unity of destiny and fate and the need to confront the Zionist invasion that threatens all Arab countries without exception.

Because the danger is enormous and increasing every day, and because the enemy, who has designs over our land and resources, is receiving tremendous support from those circles opposed to our nation, Syria has called and continues to call for effective Arab solidarity, the rallying of its potential, and a united stance from both friend and foe.

For the past years, however, the rulers of Iraq have ruined this pan-Arab policy and have caused great damage to efforts to unite and unify the Arabs. They surprised our nation with their unjust war against Iran, which killed 2 million people and caused great damage exceeding hundreds of billions of dollars in Iraq and Iran. It then ended where it started: Iraq's rulers admitted that they were wrong and returned to the Algiers agreement. No sooner had they rectified their historic mistake against Iran when they committed a more dangerous and severe crime, against an Arab country this time, Kuwait, and against their nation, which is fighting for the unity of ranks and voice in confronting the Zionist danger.

The question facing loyal Arabs was the following: Do we let the rulers of Iraq gamble once again with the fate of the region and impose struggles and battles on it that have no connection with the cause whatsoever—indeed, which even contradict Arab morals, traditions, and interests? Do we just let Kuwait be the victim of personal greed—and will their greed be satisfied with Kuwait or will they plot further invasions? Will the Arabs accept that the resources and potentials of Iraq should be squandered on discredited conflicts and controlled by personal whims and fancies?

Syria hastened to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, just as it condemned the Iraqi invasion of Iran. It called on the Arabs to hold an emergency summit and apply collective pressure to put an end to Iraq's interference with the destinies and future of the region. Syria warned the Arabs against delay in taking a firm and strict stand. Kuwait is a fraternal country and member of the Arab League. It has a right to be supported and responded to. The Iraqi invasion is a dangerous precedent, which, if successful, would establish the law of the jungle in inter-Arab relations, end all efforts of solidarity and unity, and open the door wide to blatant foreign intervention in the affairs of the nation.

What Syria expected has taken place. The Arabs did not rise to the level of the crisis. They did not apply collective pressure. Forces and fleets have flooded into the Gulf region. The Arabs gradually lost control of the situation, and the crisis was internationalized.

Nevertheless, loyal Arabs never said they would retreat from, nor abandon honest efforts to save Iraq from the adventures of its rulers and avert from the region the tragedy of a destructive war. The quadrilateral summit in Libya among the leaders of Syria, Egypt, Libya, and Sudan is part of this framework, as are the continuous negotiations between Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Syria's efforts are blessed by both the Arab people and officials because of its well-known support for pan-Arab causes and its prompt efforts to bring about effective and genuine Arab solidarity. Saving Iraq from the reckless and harmful adventures of its rulers by urging them to withdraw immediately from Kuwait and recognize the rights of the Kuwaitis to freedom, sovereignty, and the restoration of their legitimate government is the most important pan-Arab duty under these explosive circumstances.

The stubbornness of Iraq's rulers in maintaining their negative stands and their insistence on nullifying Kuwait—identity, people, government, and state—could expose our Iraqi people and the countries in the region to the dangers of a destructive war.

The coming days are filled with dangers. The more the Arabs unanimously agree on rejecting the Iraqi invasion and the Iraqi officials' gambles with the future of Iraq and the region, the more they would be pushing toward a solution—the only solution—which is withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government to this Arab country.

Papers View Importance of Summit Participation

JN0501095391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Pan-Arab Pillar," TISHRIN says: When Syria reiterates its honorable and pioneer pan-Arab role, it does so from a comprehensive concept and from real adherence to the bases and components of Arab solidarity and the requirements of pan-Arab security. Syria is therefore always against any attempt to deplete and disperse Arab capabilities. Syria has always favored all efforts to mobilize these capabilities in the main battle and in the normal path.

TISHRIN says: When Syria hurried to convene an emergency Arab summit to study the tragic consequences of the Iraqi invasion, it wanted to confirm that the invasion was not only a pan-Arab position [as heard], but that it would expose the Arabs and their affairs to grave dangers. It would distract them from their central cause, which requires united Arab power and genuine solidarity. Hence the great importance of the participation of Syria and its leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad in the quadripartite summit in Misratah, as well as the serious and earnest attempt to save Iraq from the pain of war and confrontation because of its continued occupation of Kuwait.

The quadripartite summit was an honest call to define a common Arab position, whose core is Syria, Egypt, Libya, and Sudan, concerning the Gulf crisis, developments, and regional and international repercussions. The objective is to establish pillars that will achieve the hope of all Arabs to avert the catastrophe and to achieve Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait in response to the Arab will and international legitimacy.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: There is no doubt that political and international interest in the results and progress of the summit shows again there is still an opportunity for Iraq to emerge from the impasse and the siege in which it has put itself.

Commenting on the same topic under the headline "At the Crossroad," AL-THAWRAH says: Everyone hopes that Iraq will hasten to respond to the call of reason and conscience by opening the door to a peaceful solution to save Iraq in particular and the world in general from the pain of a war whose effects cannot be predicted.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: This is what everyones hopes so that the Arabs will then be in a position that will enable them to close ranks to confront the challenges coming from everywhere.

Commentary Views 'Last Chance' in Gulf Crisis

JN0701183391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: No one in the world cannot support the intensive international efforts aimed at achieving a just solution to the Gulf crisis through the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government without any conditions. Nor can one fail to support the call for sparing the region the terrible consequences of the military option, which has recently gained ground, thanks to the failure of the Baghdad regime to comply with the international will and to its persistence on the wrong course, which sang the praises of the occupation of Kuwait as though it were an unmatched victory in an imaginary war that has nothing of heroism because it was treacherous, with one brother allowing himself to shed the blood of another.

While we share with the entire world this legitimate concern as 15 January draws nearer, we think the Iraqi regime must realize the full implication of the current last chance by retreating from its illusions and acknowledging its mistake. The Arab nation is today paying for this mistake in the form of divisions and loss as it faces the prospects of a devastating war on its territory and among its sons. Tens of thousands of defenseless Arabs will be victimized, Iraq and its Army will be destroyed, and the Arabs will pay a heavy price with their money, economy, and achievements along the road of progress and developments.

At the same time, this is an opportunity for reconsideration in which the Baghdad regime should make an accurate assessment of pan-Arab bonds, which ban the use of force in inter-Arab disputes as long as dialogue is possible for achieving understanding and solving any dispute; as long as our pan-Arab ambitions are the same; and as long as we have one common major cause—a cause that we cannot defend except through solidarity and unity.

In one of its aspects, the opportunity now available to Iraq's rulers is one where they can prove that the Baghdad regime respects international legitimacy, abides by the UN Charter, observes international resolutions, and refrains from meddling in the destinies of the peoples in the region, especially the people of Iraq.

Inasmuch as this last chance will be useful to the region and the world if it achieves what all of us hope for, it will be useful to Iraq—its people and Army—in particular. It will save the blood of the Iraqis, preserve their weapons and money, and reopen to them the doors to a new Iraq—a country building for itself and its nation, not destroying itself and its nation; a country participating in the entrenchment of world peace and security, not threatening and exploding peace and security in its region and the world.

With this spirit, we continued our efforts in Riyadh yesterday and the day before with brothers in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. We bore in mind the interests of the entire nation, and the interests of Iraq and Kuwait, without any consideration for false personal glories. Those seeking such personal glories in Iraq are now gambling with all the Arabs, and with Iraq, with everything and everyone in Iraq.

Afghanistan

USSR Said To Resume Natural Gas Exploitation

BK0801093091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 8 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has resumed extracting natural gas from Afghanistan, contrary to Moscow's claim that it had capped the wells after ending its military occupation in 1989, several Afghan sources said Tuesday.

"Soviet experts are not only controlling the production but also supervising the export" of the Afghan gas from the Shebarghan fields to their country, a resistance commander from the region said.

Syed Rasul, who leads the resistance forces in Aqcha District of the northern Jawzjan Province where the reserves are located, said in an interview the supply line was reopened as the Soviet economy ran into shambles.

The Red Army withdrew from Afghanistan in February 1989, a decade after its 1979 invasion during which the Asian mountain state's economy remained almost totally dependent on Moscow.

Natural gas, Afghanistan's main export during the Soviet occupation, was catered mainly to the demands of the Soviet Central Asian republics that faced shortages caused by Moscow's own gas exports to Western Europe.

Immediate confirmation was difficult, but United States Embassy sources said they would check the report.

Afghan observers said the decision to resume gas exports could be due to the ongoing economic crisis in the Soviet Union.

Moscow might be interested in using the Afghan gas to supplement its foreign exchange earnings, they said.

According to figures from the official Afghan media, the Soviet Union imported about 2.5 billion cubic meters of gas during the peak period in 1985.

Western estimates were up to four times higher than the published figures.

Exact statistics were difficult to obtain as the gas flow was measured at the Soviet end of the pipeline.

The Afghan insurgents battling to overthrow the Soviet-installed regime of President Najibullah blew up the pipeline at least seven times during the Soviet Army presence.

The Soviets improved gas shipments by renovating the pipeline shortly before their troops withdrew from Afghanistan under a United Nations-brokered agreement.

The Soviet Union had been paying Afghanistan 12 dollars per 1,000 cubic meters of gas—much lower than both the world price and what it charged European clients for its own product.

Furthermore Moscow did not pay cash and the gas was bartered against military purchases, development loans and imports which included food items and clothings.

Najibullah Lafrai, information minister in the Pakistan-based Afghan mujahidin's government, said the Soviets had heavily publicised their decision that the export of gas would be stopped with the withdrawal of the troops, but recent reports indicated that the gas continues to go to the Soviet Union.

The Soviets are "bluffing the world and they are cheating the Afghans," Mohammed Minhaj, a spokesman of the Jamiat Islami Party which wields influence in northern Afghanistan, said.

He said the leader of the northern guerrilla command, Ahmed Shah Ma'sud, nicknamed the "Lion of Panjsher", who was here in October, had also confirmed that the Kabul regime was meeting one third of its daily needs by selling gas to the Soviet Union.

President Najibullah last autumn called for raising the gas price which confirms that the sale was not suspended, the Jamiat spokesman added.

Commander Rasul said the Kabul regime has deployed a huge militia force for the protection of the pipeline, which his men had cut off repeatedly.

Jawzjani militia commanded by Rashid Dostom, a close aide of President Najibullah, has set up pickets along the pipeline and troops are equipped with heavy weaponry to thwart any mujahidin assaults, he said.

The supply could not be destroyed fully because of the "unusual thickness" of the renovated pipeline, Cdr. Rasul said, adding that so far the guerrillas did not possess weapons sophisticated enough to pierce the pipe.

Bangladesh

Major Political Alliances Discuss Coalition

BK0801053491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT 8 Jan 91

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 8 (AFP)—Two leading Bangladeshi political alliances have agreed in principle to forming coalitions with other parties to boost their support in upcoming parliamentary polls as analysts predict a very close race.

With polls due February 27, both the eight-party alliance headed by the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led seven-party grouping have started working on the possibility of coalitions with "like-minded" groups or parties.

Mojahidul Islam Selim, an eight-party leader, said "our group and the left-leaning five-party alliance have

reached a consensus on basic national issues ... but we have to hold further talks on a clear-cut stand for the elections."

He said the coalition was aimed at making the future government accountable to the people and ensuring the peaceful transfer of power to the elected government.

However, analysts said the one reason why the eight-party alliance was rethinking its position on a coalition was because without a two-thirds ruling majority it would not be able to amend the constitution to change the government from the present presidential form to a parliamentary system.

The BNP has been unsure on whether or not to support such an amendment as the present system was brought in during when it ruled during the 1970s.

Five-party alliance leader Nirmal Sen said talks between the two alliances would continue for several more days to finalise the details of the proposed coalition.

"We will have to consider distribution of seats among the components, common candidates and the election manifesto," he said, adding the two sides had agreed on certain points, but did not elaborate.

Sources said the five-party alliance at the meeting proposed the joint participation of three major alliances in the coming polls and the formation of a National Salvation Government.

One political leader said that in the present political situation united participation was a "far cry, and two major coalitions would be a great achievement."

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) proposed last month the formation of a National Salvation Government to consolidate the popular victory in ousting President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

It reiterated that the nation was in "deep crisis" and no single party could handle the challenges that faced the country.

So far the three opposition alliances have been interviewing their prospective candidates for the coming polls separately.

The BNP has also reportedly held talks with rightist groups, including the Jamaat-e Islami, but so far there has been no outcome.

Observers believe that Begum Zia's election campaign has increasingly drawn people to the party, especially with its stand against "big neighbour India."

"Many people fear that India's dominance in Bangladesh's affairs could return with the Awami League government," one analysts said, adding the BNP's main advantage was that it was one of the oldest and largest groups in the country.

He said Sheikh Hasina was preaching secularism, which to many was like protecting Hindus, India's dominant religion, at a time when Moslem-majority Bangladeshis were condemning clashes between the two groups in India over a site in the north of the country claimed by both on religious grounds.

But, he added, Begum Zia had made it clear she would not accept an amendment to the constitution to change the state religion from Islam to secularism.

"We do not want to preach atheism in the name of secularism, but we want to ensure equal rights to members of all religious communities," she said recently.

The Awami League, which led Bangladesh to independence from Pakistan in 1971, maintained close ties with India until its government led by president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was toppled in a bloody military coup on August 15, 1975.

Sheikh Mujib, father of Sheikh Hasina, was killed at the time along with several members of his family.

Acting President Says No One Can Stop Elections

BK0701155791 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has categorically said the ensuing parliamentary polls will be held on the 27th of next month as scheduled. He was talking informally to members of the Council of Advisers and high officials after administering the oath to newly appointed adviser Mr. Imamuddin Ahmed Chwodhury at his official residence in Dhaka today. Mr. Chowdhury has been given the portfolio of commerce.

Referring to a BBC commentary quoted by a local newspaper today in which it was alleged that people have some apprehensions whether the impending polls will at all take place, the acting president said no one other than Allah can stop it. He said any attempt by any quarter to foil elections will be undone by the government with a firm hand.

Students Oppose Allowing Ershad Party in Polls

BK0701160391 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The All Party Students Unity [APSU] has declared that the ousted Jatiya Party will not be allowed to contest polls in the name of democratic (?norms). The declaration was made at the rally held at the [name indistinct] of the Dhaka University Campus today at the start of country-wide demonstrations and rallies demanding ban on the evil politics of Ershad and his alliance.

Addressing the rally, the APSU leaders demanded that the deposed president and his accomplices must be put on trial immediately for misdeeds, corruption, and other

charges. They also called upon all political alliances and parties not to give shelter and nominate any Jatiya Party leaders in the ensuing polls.

India

Troops on Maximum Alert on Kashmir Border

BK0701160091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Jammu, India, Jan 7 (AFP)—India sounded a maximum security alert Monday along the Pakistan border in Kashmir and sent troop reinforcements to halt alleged infiltration by Moslem militants, official sources said.

At least 1,000 army and paramilitary reinforcements trained in snow warfare have been despatched to the snowbound border areas, top defence and Kashmir government officials said.

Troops guarding the line of actual control dividing Indian-and Pakistan-administered parts of Kashmir were on maximum alert and had intensified border patrols to guard against infiltrators, they said.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of giving sanctuary to anti-Indian Moslem militants in the northern third of Kashmir, which is administered by Islamabad.

The sources alleged that Pakistani troops and border guards known as rangers had been helping militants sneak into India's part of Kashmir by providing covering fire to distract Indian security personnel.

The security alert came a day after police arrested 50 suspects who had allegedly crossed into Indian Kashmir during the past week.

Islamabad has repeatedly denied Indian allegations and press reports that it was training and arming Moslem militants to fuel the two-year-old secessionist campaign in Kashmir.

However, it has pledged political, diplomatic and moral support for the campaign which cost more than 2,000 lives last year in Kashmir. [passage omitted]

Shekhar Lauds Change in Pakistan's Punjab Stance

BK0701125391 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister says there are indications of a change in Pakistan's attitude in relation to the situation in Punjab. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said though the change is slight, the effect is being felt by the militants in the state. He was replying to clarifications on the statement on the recent SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit and his discussions with leaders of member countries in Male in the Rajya Sabha today. He said the Pakistan prime minister had suggested that there should be close contacts at the highest level to dispel apprehensions and this resulted in setting up of a hotline link between him and Mr. Nawaz Sharif.

Referring to Pakistan's nuclear program, Mr. Chandra Shekhar assured the house that India is capable of meeting any misadventure on the part of Islamabad. He said the nuclear issue did not figure in his talks with Mr. Nawaz Sharif.

Tamil Nadu Anti-LTTE Efforts Said Insufficient

BK0801092091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has expressed dissatisfaction over the steps taken by the Tamil Nadu government in checking the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] activities. He said it is doubtful whether even those arrested really belong to the LTTE.

Intervening during question-hour in the Rajya Sabha today, the prime minister said the center does not want to dismiss any state government, nor give it any threat. It only hopes that the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] government will rise to the occasion and prove equal to its task. He said the prime concern of the center is the safety of the people as the LTTE has extended its links by helping the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] of Assam and People's War Group of Naxalites [Maoist Guerrillas] in Andhra Pradesh and some others with weapons. They are also controlling the coastal belt of Tamil Nadu. The prime minister assured the house that the center will discharge its duty toward the people and will take any measure warranted by the situation.

Responding to a query from the members, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said using India's good offices to resolve the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka is a ticklish job and observed that New Delhi had a sad experience in the past.

Shekhar Favors Negotiated Settlement in Assam

BK0801091691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister says the government would favor a negotiated settlement to find an amicable solution to the Assam problem. Mr. Chandra Shekhar told the Rajya Sabha that there has been no initiative for talks from anyone so far and the government would positively respond if such an initiative came. Intervening during the question-hour, he said the government has only banned some militant organizations in the Northeast, but has not closed its doors to individual leaders. He denied the charge that an intelligence agency was involved in acts of sabotage to destabilize the AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] government of Mr. Prafulla Mahanta. He agreed with the Rajya Sabha members that regional disparities and imbalances are the root cause of tensions and said the center will soon take appropriate steps for promoting the Northeast Region.

Shekhar Interviewed on Gulf, USSR Ties

BK0501152091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has expressed the hope that there will be a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis. In an interview with the Soviet news agency, TASS, he said the crisis has brought the world to the precipice of a war and it should be resolved without delay. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the reconciliation and dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States has created a new atmosphere of hope and confidence among the people of the world.

Commenting on the Indo-Soviet relations, the prime minister said India will expand its multifarious cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Chief of Naval Staff Speaks on Gulf Crisis

BK0801040091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Ram Das, has said that Indian Navy is ready to face any eventuality arising out of the Gulf crisis. He was talking to newsmen at Cochin in Kerala. The Naval chief said that the main stress of the Navy at present is to put it's resources to optimum use.

Intent To Disrupt Bangladesh Elections Denied

BK0801054491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The Indian High Commission in Bangladesh has termed as false a report published in a local daily alleging that Indian nationals with arms and ammunition are being sent to that country to disrupt the forthcoming parliamentary elections. In a press release in Dhaka, the high commissioner said that such erroneous and tendentious reports should not be published in the Bangladesh press. It also said the Indian people and the government have friendly and cooperative relations with Bangladesh.

* Immediate Resolution Urged in Religious Dispute

91P40095A Madras ANANDA VIKATAN in Tamil 16 Dec 90 p 14

[Editorial: "Needed: Immediate Resolution!"]

[Text] Fortunately, a person loitering with the intention of blowing up the Babari Mosque in Ayodhya has been arrested. At the same time, an attempt to destroy another mosque in Faizabad with a bomb has also been foiled by the police.

As it is considered improper for politics to enter religion, the instance of terrorist-politics entering religion leads to concern. Is it practical to provide police or military protection to the myriad of worship houses in the country?

It is imperative that the higher echelons of the government immediately investigate how to forestall these types of incidents. Otherwise, religious fanatics will start acting in the thoughtless and retaliatory manner of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." It is not hard to imagine how such a cruel, continuing saga would end.

As the first step, the Central Government must realize that it can no longer procrastinate in the matter of the Ram Janmabhoomi as in other matters. It must sit to discuss this issue well and promptly with religious and political party leaders, and come to an immediate and decisive settlement of it.

Such a decision may result in temporary agitation. If the government persists, it will subside. Procrastination in dealing with the problem will result in long-term adverse consequences for the nation.

Iran

Iraq's Ibrahim Arrives for Talks in Tehran

LD0801113291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice president and vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, arrived in Tehran at midday today at the head of a top-ranking political delegation including Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad al-Zubaydi, three deputies of Iraq's parliament, and a group of political officials of that country. They were welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport by First Vice President Mr. Habibi and Messrs. Sa'idi-Kia, the roads and transport minister; Deputy Foreign Minister Beshrati; 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs; three deputies of the Islamic Majles; the Iraqi charge d'affaires; and other embassy staff in Tehran.

According to a Central News Unit report, during his three-day stay in Tehran Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim will hold talks with our country's authorities on the implementation of the articles of Resolution 598, strengthening bilateral relations, the latest positions of the Iraqi Government on the Persian Gulf crisis, and ways of settling the crisis peacefully.

On the basis of this report, First Vice President Mr. Habibi, in an interview with our correspondent, said: It is agreed that in our talks with the Iraqi delegation we should pursue the course of a comprehensive peace; we hope that in this connection we would amicably [bekhubi] solve the remaining problems between the two countries and reach the desired outcome.

Mr. Habibi added: In the talks with Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, we will study ways of solving the Persian Gulf crisis, bearing in mind the interests of the Islamic world.

Iraq's Vice President Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, in an interview with our correspondent, while expressing a strong desire for the resumption of friendly ties between Iran and Iraq, asked for improvement in these ties. Referring to the meeting between the foreign minister of Iraq and the U.S. secretary of state, he said: The United States wishes to exploit this opportunity to justify its own stand.

IRGC Commanders Briefed on Maneuvers

LD0701182491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] At a meeting of the Ground Forces' commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] today, the commander in chief, Mr. Mohsen Reza'i, issued a circular from the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, on the duties of the IRGC Ground Forces. According to an IRNA report, at the meeting Mr. Mohsen Reza'i explained the objectives of the Great Fajr maneuvers, which will be held in Bakhtaran, Ilam, and Khuszetan Provinces from 10 January.

Referring to the situation in the Persian Gulf and the presence of foreign forces in the region, Mr. Mohsen Reza'i stressed the need for vigilance among the Armed Forces.

Plans To Use SAMs

LD0701114791 Tehran IRNA in English 1051 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA—The forthcoming large-scale Fajr maneuvers are directly related to the presence of alien forces in the southern Persian Gulf waters and has nothing to do with Iran-Iraq issues, said a senior military official here Monday.

Speaking to reporters, Acting Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Rahim Safavi said that the Iraqi Government has been informed of the maneuvers to be launched in southern and western Iran next week.

The IRGC commander stressed that Iran as a country with the longest coast in the Persian Gulf will prepare for a defence in case of any event in the region. As a prepatory step, he added, the IRGC forces will soon have a large helicopter fleet.

More on the month-long maneuvers, Safavi said that the Army and IRGC forces will participate employing both anti-chemical and anti-microbiological defence tactics against any possible threat.

Tucano fighter planes as well as SAM-2 and SAM-6 missile systems will be used for the first time during the maneuvers, he added.

Commentary Hails Sudanese Decision on Islamic Law

NC0801104991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] The Sudanese Government has officially introduced shari'a [Islamic law] in that country in a move that coincided with the announcement of a plan for the federalization of Sudan. These two major developments in that country have been characterized as significant by political observers.

The roots of the obstacles facing the implementation of Islamic teachings in Sudan, despite the existence of a rich cultural and religious framework for this, undoubtedly lie in the colonialist policies that were exercised in this part of the world. For years, these policies created artificial limitations designed to serve the colonialists' objectives. In relation with this, a review of Sudan's history can clarify many existing realities.

In the early 20th century, Sudan was placed under full British rule after an era of political rivalry between France and Britain in North Africa. In addition to taking measures to prevent the country from attaining its independence and to obstruct popular movements, Britain also cut the road linking north and south for decades and forced the Arabic-speaking and Muslim people of the north to obtain visas before they could travel to the southern provinces. Even if they could obtain the necessary permission, these people were deprived of the right to live in the south for long periods of time.

During its rule over Sudan, in addition to upsetting the social fabric of the country, Britain sent religious missionaries to propagate Christianity, especially in the south. This was intended to exacerbate religious differences and to use religion to establish political boundaries.

For years the political boundaries created in this way confronted all governments that came to power in Sudan with a basic problem: the division of the country into a Muslim-inhabited north and a Christian-inhabited south. This division is undoubtedly the cause of the long wars which were fough from 1955 until 1972 and from 1983 until today.

Despite these protracted internal clashes, the Muslims, who make up more than 70 percent of the Sudanese population, have always called for the implementation of Islamic laws, so much so that in 1983 then Sudanese leader Ja'far Numayri gave in to popular pressure and attempted to compile what is known as shari'a so that he could thus ease domestic pressures and gain popularity among Muslim circles.

However, because of the nature of Numayri's regime and of the objectives it pursued, this plan was not implemented in full and it lacked legitimacy. Moreover, the partial implementation of Islamic law by the Numayri

regime had a negative effect on Sudan, which led to opposition from Muslim factions also.

Despite the fact that major changes were made in the contents of the shari'a by the governments that came to power after the Numayri regime was overthrown, this law was not implemented for various reasons, foremost among which was these governments' lack of stability.

Now, however, 'Umar al-Bashir, head of the Sudanese Government, has decided to implement shari'a despite mounting economic problems, especially the severence of American and Western assistance he is facing. This will undoubtedly trigger reactions from foreign factions and domestic elements.

Even though the non-Islamic factions headed by the southern rebels continue to regard the implementation of the shari'a as contrary to their freedom and independence, nevertheless the simultaneous implementation of the federalization plan and of the Islamic shari'a will at least reduce the pretexts available to the domestic opposition. Moreover, the new Constitution will, in addition to granting autonomy to the various parts of the country, grant Sudanese citizens the right to acquire any position regardless of religion.

The implementation of shari'a in Sudan will give this country a special place among the regional Muslim countries and will gain the support of regional Muslim public opinion. The implementation of Islamic law in a big Muslim African country like Sudan, which enjoys an important strategic position, is significant as each political and economic development there will affect neighboring countries. Moreover, Sudan's position adjacent to the Red Sea, which is the most important regional waterway and which links the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea, gives this country special significance. Its proximity to ports under U.S. control such as the Berbera port has caused Western circles to follow Sudanese developments with special sensitivity.

Of course it is clear that the intensification of pro-Islamic inclinations in the region will be opposed and attacked by Western propaganda because this conflicts with the West's interests. At any rate, despite the existing problems, the Sudanese Government's decision to introduce shari'a in that country, a decision supported by the Sudanese people, can be considered a noteworthy success for the 'Umar al-Bashir government, even though Sudanese statesmen face a path fraught with difficulties in achieving the full implementation of this law.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD0501211291 Budapest MTI in English 1647 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, January 5 (MTI)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky arrived in Tehran for a two-day official visit on Saturday. Ways of developing bilateral ties and current issues of the region will figure on the agenda of the talks.

As regards Iranian-Hungarian relations, the main issue will be the coordination of interests in political and economic fields. Political ties between the two countries are basically good, whereas the turnover of bilateral trade has dropped to a yearly average of 80 million dollars by the end of the decade, as opposed to 500 million dollars per year in the early eighties.

According to the Hungarian side's opinion, political relations could be best promoted by achievements of economic cooperation. One aim of Geza Jeszenszky's visit is to get a picture of eventual opportunities and to learn about Iran's views on some issues concerning cooperation. In spite of the considerable drop in bilateral trade, Iran is still one of Hungary's most important economic partners in the Third World. Business deals, currently being under preparation, are worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Possibilities have emerged for Hungary to buy oil from Iran (Iran is ready to deliver 2-3 million tonnes per year) in exchange for products of the Hungarian machine industry.

Among issues of international politics, the problem of the Gulf crisis will figure high on the agenda. Hungary is anxious to learn about Iran's standpoint on this conflict of international concern and about the possibilities of resolving it. Iran, on the other hand, will probably express its interest in changes being underway in Central-East Europe.

Geza Jeszensky is the first foreign minister of the Eastern European region to visit Tehran after the change of the system, in Eastern Europe. A favourable atmosphere is created for the talks by Iran having welcomed these changes.

During the talks an agreement on cooperation between the two foreign ministries and on cultural cooperation will also be signed.

Meets With Karrubi

LD0501222191 Tehran IRNA in English 1956 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi told Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky here today that the Persian Gulf security is solely the concern of littoral states, and the U.S. claim for being concerned about peace is an "utter lie".

He emphasized on the need for exploring peaceful solutions to the crisis in the Persian Gulf, and pointed out that the militaristic policies of the United States is a device for safeguarding American interests in the region.

The Hungarian official referred to the "solid relations" between Iran and Hungary and called for the interface between the parliaments of the two countries.

He also repeated the support of his government for the UN Security Council resolutions on the Persian Gulf crisis and called for the unconditional pull out of Iraq from Kuwait.

On the developments in Hungary, Jeszenszky said that religious values are now respected in his country.

The Hungarian foreign minister arrived in Tehran Friday night.

Economic Cooperation Stressed

LD0601125691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, who is visiting Tehran, met our country's agriculture minister before noon today and declared his country's readiness to expand cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Kalantari, the agriculture minister, then spoke about the seventh session of the two countries' joint commission, which is to be held in Tehran, and expressed the hope that the expansion of commercial, agricultural, educational, and industrial ties between Iran and Hungary will make good progress.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0601180491 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Geza Jeszensky. During that meeting, the Hungarian foreign minister, having passed on a written message from the Hungarian president to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, conveyed to him the warm greetings of the Hungarian president and the prime minister. He then submitted to him a detailed report of the latest developments in Hungary, and said: The Hungarian nation regards the developments and the trend of progress in the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in political, social, economic, and cultural fields with much interest and respect, and it has made great efforts toward maintaining its culture and national independence. He added: The Hungarian nation intends to use clericalism and subtlety of religion to bring to an end the aggressive and materialistic conditions emanating from harsh Marxist teachings and to create a balanced society. Declaring his country's readiness to expand cooperation with the IRI, the Hungarian foreign minister extended an official invitation, on behalf of the Hungarian president, to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay a visit to Hungary.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, in his turn, having expressed his gratitude for the Hungarian president's message and his and the Hungarian prime minister's friendly greetings, termed the Hungarian foreign minister's report on the latest developments in that country as hopeful, and said: We are indeed glad for the developments in your country, and are pleased to see that Hungary and your neighbors have been salvaged from Marxism. We hope that Hungary will be able to begin its era of reconstruction independently, freely, and away from the hegemony of the big countries.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the necessity of expanding Irano-Hungarian cooperation in all fields and expressed the hope of visiting Hungary at a suitable opportunity.

It is worth noting that during the said meeting, Mr. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, the head of the Islamic Society of Hungary, presented a copy of the Nahj ol-Balagheh [second most important theological text after the Koran to Iranian Shi'as], which he had translated himself, to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Meets Velayati

LD0601185391 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The second round of talks between Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Geza Jeszensky and Iranian Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati were held today. In this round of talks, the foreign ministers of the two countries discussed bilateral ties, the Persian Gulf crisis, and Europe's position in terms of the new international order.

The Hungarian foreign minister, remarking on his country's internal developments, and enumerating the existing economic and industrial basis and potentials in Hungary, called for the expansion of bilateral ties in economic, industrial, and cultural fields.

Mr. Velayati declared the islamic Republic of Iran's readiness for the expansion of comprehensive cooperations with Hungary.

Jeszensky Departs

NC0701064491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] At the end of the official visit by Hungarian Foreign Minister Mr. Jeszensky to Tehran, two protocols were signed between Iran and Hungary.

Our correspondent reports that the political protocol envisages regular contacts and exchanges of views between the two countries' officials on bilateral cooperation as well as cooperation in international organizations and forums.

Also, a cultural memorandum of understanding which was signed between the two sides envisages cooperation in education, sports, culture, exchanges of university students and professors, and other cultural fields between the two countries for two years.

According to this report the Hungarian foreign minister left Tehran and was seen off by Mr. Velayati. Before leaving Tehran, he said in an interview that the outcome of this visit was positive.

Our foreign minister also said that the Hungarian foreign minister's visit to Tehran was a turning point in the two countries' political relations.

Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0401172391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at Tehran University on 4 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted, including Koranic verse] Let me extend my greetings for the auspicious birthday of her holiness the righteous and immaculate Fatimah Zahra, peace be upon her. [passage omitted]

In our system we commemorate the day, because of the greatness and the personality of her holiness Zhara, peace be upon her, as women's day, as mother's day. [passage omitted] We commemorate the need to respect mothers and, naturally, to respect wives and sisters and to value women in an Islamic system; valuing women who have discovered their own worth and who, especially in the course of the Islamic revolution and since the victory of the revolution until now, have played their role in the revolution, in preserving the revolution, in the victory of the revolution, in the imposed war, during eight years of defense, and in all social arenas. It is truly the case that they have at times walked, if not ahead, then certainly alongside men. The presence of our women in the Islamic society in the manner that Islam has demanded and continues to demand has demonstrated the value and worth given by Islam to women and Islam's view of women.

If today, a decade after the victory of the revolution, it is possibly seen in some places that some women do not correctly respect their worth and succumb to Western, Taghuti [an idol in Mecca—reference to the shah], satanic, and sensual values to such an extent that they allow themselves to trample Islamic values, this cannot change the nature of the situation. This is a separate matter. [passage omitted]

The next issue: let me extend my greetings for the Christian New Year to our country's Christians. [passage omitted] We believe that the battle against oppression and cruelty is a common principle of all divine religions. If one day the church becomes a tool in the hands of arrogance, we believe that the pure and holy spirit of the great Jesus Christ would despise a church which is a tool of arrogance. He wants a church that, in accordance with divine teachings, stands up to corruption, cruelty, and oppression. It is not enough to say we want peace; we pray that, God willing, there will be peace. Our prayers that there will be peace is not enough. We are told by the holy books that we should also follow up our prayers.

If the Iranian nation had prayed that God rid the Islamic nation of the evil of the Taghuti regime, if they had sat at home and had just prayed in mosques, would anything have happened? Most certainly nothing would have happened. [passage omitted] Let us pray that there will be no oppression but we must also act and we must stand up, to the limits of our ability, against oppressors.

Let me also say a few words about the remarks of the eminent leader, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his blessings continue, in his meeting with the commanders of the Islamic Revolution Committee. I consider the repetition of one or two points to be appropriate. One point is about spiritual matters and one or two points about political matters. [passage omitted]

A very interesting point in his gracious remarks was this: the life of the Earth depends on the life of the faithful. Strive to be one of the faithful. And there were two points about political isues, the summary and meaning of which is this: If the United states thinks that it is the leader of the world; and if it has the intention, when it sees that the system that existed in the east is breaking apart, that the satellites are pulling away one by one, that it is having problems—let it [the United States] not imagine that it has a monopoly of power and that it has the right to lead the world. If the United States thinks that it is the leader of the world, if it is really after such a thing, this is a disaster. I believe that the interpretation of such an idea as a disaster follows from the same notion that the life of the world depends on th elife of the faithful.

When did the United States throughout its political history, take steps beneficial to human beings and humanity? Where on earth has it propagated or strengthened goodness? The United States put a plundering regime called Israel into the region. It greatly supports all its [Israel's] crimes—and we witness these crimes every day—the way they spill the blood of the Muslims, destroy their homes and lives, and the way they confront our youth. One wonders at the way the Muslims resist for the sake of their homelands, their lives, their religion and honor. These gentlemen [Americans] are not prepared to say a word or issue a single statement. In their last gathering, their final session [not further specified], you saw that they did not even issue a simple statement. Is it correct that because of the Persian Gulf crisis, we must not pay any attention to this problem. What has this got to do with that?

What did the United States do in Vietnam? What did the United States do in many other countries that the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] referred to recently? Is it not a calamity that the same person who never wanted good for humans, confronted good people everywhere, based everything on his material welfare, calculated everything around dollars or oil, should suddenly want to become the leader of the world? Does it not mean that life on earth is in danger? The United States imposed war on us, supported Iraq, took many actions against the revolution to destroy our Islamic homeland, so that Islam would be no more. Today, we do not think that they have good intentions. [passage omitted]

Some times they use honorable, delicate, and sweet phrases like "human rights." But we see that their veto and their economic assistance is carried out on a calculated basis.

Fortunately, whether you [the U.S.] like it or not, Islam has started to breathe new life. It has gone further than the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it has entered the hearts of the globe. Even in the small and large towns of the United States, we see the signs of respect and admiration for Islam whether they are Muslim or not. We have many examples like this in the region, in the Middle East. In the East you see more signs of Islam, these are all due to the Islamic revolution. Let not the United States think that it can plot and scheme with out taking into account Islam and the Muslims.

I have a few things to say, both about the remarks made by the esteemed leader and other things that I want to summarize. I will omit one or two and will refer to one or two and end my speech.

We say to our Palestinian brothers: About your resistance and the new path you have embarked upon and the support by the world of Islam, particularly the support by the Islamic Republic and the order given by the esteemed leader, you can be sure that the opposition plans and schemes will have no efect and we will witness your victory soon. The reason is obvious. When Palestinian youths and Muslim people decided to retrieve their lands and we see they are fighting empty-handed against usurper Israeli soldiers who are armed to the teeth, it makes no difference whether you [Israelis] gather two, five, or 100,000 more or less, Jews from various parts of the world and transport them there [Israel], thinking that by bringing more of them the problem will be solved.

These schemes are outdated, that is, for those whose rights have been usurped and who believe themselves to be in the right to forego their usurped rights through nationality changes and population increases. We are sure that the decision of the Palestinians will not be affected if they [Israelis] bring tens of thousands more Jews from the east, Europe, or other parts of the world. It is wrong to usurp. The land that has been usurped must be returned to its owner without further ado. [crowd chants] I have a few more things to say. [crowd chants: Palestine is victorious; Israel is doomed] Definitely, God willing.

I will omit a few things. But one thing cannot be left unsaid, particularly since our brothers from Kashmir have taken part in this glorious ceremony and recognize the support of the Islamic Republic. Many times the country's high-ranking officials have said on this holy podium and the country's officials have pointed out to India's central government that it is a political mistake to neglect more than 1 billion Muslims, particularly since a large number of them live in that area, and especially since the number of Muslims in India is not small, that the central government must realize that if it does not put an end to these tribal clashes as soon as possible and prevent these savage acts against the Muslims—which as we all know are unfortunately condoned by the police and central government officials—are not stopped and the rights of the Muslims are not safeguarded, there will definitely be some problems for the government.

Today's world is an open world. It is not possible for you to close the doors and do whatever you want with the people. Today the world has changed, Islam has been revived. All over the world the Muslims consider themselves as one. If a problem arises for Muslims in any part of the world all Muslims would consider it their religious duty to support them. Once again we remind India's central government to watch over our brothers from Kashmir. God willing the problem will be solved soon. [Koranic verse omitted]

Paper on Iran's 'Pivotal' Role in Gulf

NC0401174191 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran For Regional Stability"]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran last Thursday night from his visits to a number of Persian Gulf littoral states as well as Sweden in his new political move in relation to the Persian Gulf crisis.

Velayati visited Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, all members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC].

Due to its pivotal role in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches importance to constant consultations with the Persian Gulf states.

Upon his return, Velayati said a joint Iran-(P)GCC meeting will be held soon attended by their foreign ministers.

Meanwhile, The Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir announced Saturday that the (P)GCC states are talking directly with Iran to create a new regional security system to prevent violent upheavals in the volatile region.

"We have historical ties with Iran...and it is entering in the security arrangement by right or its geographic significance," the Qatari minister told reporters in Doha, the site of a (P)GCC summit attended by leaders of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and the exiled leader of Kuwait.

Obviously, Iran's intention in promoting ties with the regional countries is to restore peace and stability in the region.

The summit is the first by the (P)GCC states since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

With the approach of the January 15 deadline set by the United Nations Security Council for Iraq to withdraw

from Kuwait or face war, and Baghdad's insistence on continuing its occupation of Kuwait, the possibility of a conflict in the region is vehemently felt. What is certain is that all conditions required for a military confrontation such as ample financial support, sufficient energy, enough manpower as well as other motives for waging a war, are there.

Many political and military experts of the world have already offered their opinions on an assault by U.S.-led multi-national forces on Iraq and its bloody consequences but the reality is that we are rapidly approaching one of the most crucial moments of the history whose inevitable results would have very adverse effects on the world.

From economic viewpoints, with the Persian Gulf as the main outlet of oil exports to the world and many oil terminals being destroyed in the region, the world would face a great economic crisis, a crisis that would hit not only the industrialized countries but also the developing states that are heavily dependent on oil with no access to a substitute energy, and as a consequence the political stability of such countries would be seriously jeopardized.

One can even claim that the adverse effects of a possible economic crisis on these countries would not be less devastating than that of a war involving each and every one of them. In short, the effects of a war in the Persian Gulf can be comparable to that of a Third World war.

From political viewpoints, the crisis arising from the massacre of Muslims in a war and the occupation of holy sanctuaries by foreign forces as well as the continued presence of American troops in the region would only complicate and perpetuate the current crisis.

In that case, such a complicated crisis would have so many parameters that it would not be possible to find a solution to them so easily. For instance, there would be the cultural effects and ideological reactions of the peoples in the region that can in no way be settled by a mere political decision.

At any rate, it is hoped that the diplomatic measures to find a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis especially those by regional countries would bear fruit and the crisis would come to an end without any military action in view of the irreparable, and critical results that war in the Persian Gulf would entail.

RESALAT on U.S. as Regional Policeman

NC0601063691 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Dec 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafraz: "The United States and the Policing of the Region"]

[Text] The concept that in the post Cold War era the world is moving toward peaceful coexistence does not seem correct. Though many crises arising from the bipolar system have ended, new ones have arisen, and the "former superpowers" do not seem to have the power to contain them.

If the Persian Gulf crisis were to culminate in a war, it will be impossible for either of the warring sides to control it. The United States plans to set up a new security system in the region by permanently stationing 300,000 Rapid Deployment Forces in the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf. It is also accelerating the construction of bases in the region, especially on Saudi territory, so that it can ensure its future benefits.

Will the United States be able to police the region? We will assess the issue in the following points:

1. Contrary to the wishes of world arrogance we are entering a new era of "nations," an era in which the nations have risen up for sovereignty over their own destinies, and they will attain victory.

When establishing its new security system in the region, the United States will shatter the geographical composition of the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms. As a result, some of the kings and shaykhs of these countries will be toppled.

In such circumstances it would be too farfetched to imagine that the regional nations will permit the United States to become the region's policeman and to permit the new rulers—who will have been chosen by the U.S. military bases—to govern them.

2. The European countries, particularly Germany and France, and Japan will not agree to letting the United States have all the oil wells in the region.

If Europe, which needs oil, agrees to such a situation, it would be walking toward a precipice. In order to compensate for its slow economic growth, the United States will capitalize to the maximum on the almost-free oil at its disposal while the Europeans will be paying a considerable price. In such an uneven competition, Europe will definitely be the loser.

While there is still time, Europe should think about a way out and should not be deceived by Washington's promises. The promise of the Kirkuk oil wells for Europe is nothing more than a mirage. If Iraq is dismembered and the province of Kirkuk is severed from the country, new crises and instability will grip the region. This is why France is indifferent to the toppling of the Iraqi Government. However, Paris' uncertainty in adopting a principled stance will result in immense losses for France.

3. The other problem for a new U.S. security system stems from its simultaneous protection of "oil" and "Israel." The conflict resulting from this divergent objective will create enormous problems for the United States.

In the event of a war in the region, it is highly likely that Israel will attack Jordan in order to relocate Jews in occupied areas with the fleeing of Palestinians.

In such circumstances, countries such as Syria will be forced to break away from the international coalition against Iraq and even go to war as Jordan's ally. Countries such as Algeria and Sudan will enter the arena on Jordan's side, and it will be very difficult for the United States to control the crisis.

In this situation, the U.S. preference to provide oil for Israel above all others will have unforeseeable consequences and will probably result in an overall uprising in the region which will topple the entire "domineering system."

KEYHAN Says War 'Imminent' in Persian Gulf

NC0601184491 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Dec 90 p 22

[Political commentary by Mahmud Eslamiyan: "The Reciprocal Countdown"]

[Text] Each person sees the beginning and end of the Persian Gulf crisis from his own perspective and with various predictions. The following article confirms that war is imminent in the Persian Gulf as dictated by the conditions of time and place. In this analysis, Saddam will definitely be the loser.

The developments in the Persian Gulf during the past few months are gradually moving toward all-out war. Bush proposed the meeting of the Iraqi foreign minister and his American counterpart, and a part of the scenario is entirely military. In diplomatic lexicon, this overture can be called a peaceful posture. Just as the Iraqis had categorically decided to attack Kuwait but agreed to hold so-called peace talks for the sake of maintaining their international prestige, the Americans are adopting the same posture today.

It appears that behind the political scene, intensive planning for obtaining the necessary conditions for an attack is in progress. Despite all the United States' political verbiage about the possibility of an attack, it is obvious that if Saddam refuses to pull out of Kuwaiti territory, an attack seems inevitable.

In other words, the last act of the play written by the West will not be a multilateral battle. Facts and figures indicate that the United States will be forced to attack Kuwaiti territory in January or February.

1. The scale of forces and equipment transported to the region indicates that the U.S. objective is to attack. According to official sources 350,000 troops, 1,200 airplanes, 3,000 tanks, and at least 100 warships have been sent there. No war is based merely on official statistics, as it is against the principles and logic of war to reveal accurate figures. Thus, it is possible that the forces and equipment far exceed the disclosed numbers.

2. For an extensive attack, the best possible time would be from the first half of the month of Dey [22 December-20 January] until the second half of the month of Bahman [22 January-19 February]. This would be the best time, considering the coldness of the weather, just as the time for an extensive battle in southern regions is also governed by weather conditions. In other words, the time for battle is dictated by the weather and is usually limited.

3. The morale of the U.S. soldiers in the region does not seem conducive to a prolonged stay. This is evident from the soldiers' attitude toward journalists and officals. All of them want to carry out operations swiftly and return home as soon as possible.

The inability to attack in the period noted above will result in the need to stay at least a year in the region because of the approaching season of the hajj pilgrimage. This will not be economical for the U.S. soldiers; politically, it will not be good for their morale.

It is certain that the United States will not be able to afford a prolonged stay for a few hundred thousand of its citizens and will be forced into a political-military mobilization this winter. On the other hand, Saddam's display of strength appears to be greater than it actually is. The Iraqi regime's great strength before was dependent on foreign resources and support and was thus able to resist Iran in the war. Massive arsenals and a one-million strong army can be successful in classical warfare only if it has a constant source of supply.

The severance of political and economic assistance from the West, and to a great extent from the East, will render Iraq impotent in a war. Iraq is not self-sufficient but depends on aid for its military and economic strength. Thus, an inherently dependent regime will quickly become totally debilitated in a crisis.

U.S. political and intelligence officials' repeated magnification of Iraqi strength has the following objectives:

1. To strengthen an international mobilization against Iraq and to create international political and psychological conditions for an attack on Iraq.

2. To magnify its own future victory. This is the most important objective. By enlarging the scale of Iraq's military might it can exaggerate its victory over such a regime in order to reap political capital. This is the motive behind the shrewd policy the United States is so intensively pursuing.

In any case, the Iraqi regime is not capable of handling a full-scale war after being cut off from its previous support. The fate of such affiliated regimes that grow suddenly like an inflated balloon can be nothing more than its overthrow during a political-military crisis.

If Iraq refuses to retreat, we will witness a battle that will prove that laying the foundations of government on affiliated elements and a lack of reliance on the people for the independence of the country brings down regimes as fast, if not faster, as it had bolstered them up earlier.

Pakistan

Popular Opposition to U.S on Gulf Issue Increases

BK0801110691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 8 (AFP)—The percentage of Pakistanis opposed to the U.S. military presence in the Gulf has risen sharply to 77 per cent, up 15 per cent from August, according to a Gallup poll published here Tuesday.

The poll, conducted in December, showed support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had doubled from 14 per cent five months ago to 28 per cent.

However, 68 per cent said Pakistan should help defend Saudi Arabia in the event of an Iraqi attack.

Pakistan has already sent 5,000 soldiers to the Gulf and there are plans to double that amount.

Meanwhile the poll showed that 87 per cent of Pakistanis think their country should develop an atomic bomb, and a further 77 per cent said Islamabad should refuse all foreign aid linked to Pakistan abandoning its nuclear programme.

The United States suspended its annual aid to Islamabad on October 1, because of suspicions that Pakistan was developing a military nuclear capability.

Khan on India's Regrets Over Harassment of Envoys

BK0601133291 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, told Senate today that the Indian Government has conveyed its regrets over the incidents of harassment of diplomatic personnel of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi on 29th and 30th of November last. He was speaking on an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Professor Khurshid Ahmad on the subject. The foreign minister said Pakistan took a very serious view of this (?pitiable) incident and a strong protest was immediately lodged with the Indian Government. The Indian Government had assured that Pakistan's complaint would be investigated and corrective action would be taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur. He said as a result of timely action taken by Pakistan, no further incident of harassment of other diplomatic personnel has taken place.

After this statement of the foreign minister the mover did not press his motion.

Sri Lanka

Plan Prepared To Help Nationals in Gulf

BK0801111891 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Minister of Labor and Vocational Training G.M. Premachandra says a plan is being prepared to help Sri Lankans serving in the Middle East should hostilities break out in the Gulf. The minister says that in such a situation assistance will be obtained from friendly countries and the issue considered as a national problem. About 400,000 Sri Lankans are employed in various jobs in the Middle East. The president has instructed to present a report to the Cabinet meeting tomorrow on what action should be taken to problems that may arise if there is a war in the Middle East.

Accordingly, Mr. Premachandra said the ministries concerned are preparing such reports. Inquiry offices will be established at the district level to provide information on Sri Lankans serving in the MIddle East. He expressed the hope that the government will be able to meet this challenge too.